■ BUSINESS / B1
Stocks hit highest levels since '99 due to RP's better fiscal picture

■ SPORTS / A30
Guidicelli in explosive Shell Superkarting comeback

■ METRO / A25
P7.5M in shabu seized from Quiapo drug den; 6 suspects arrested

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1
Martin Nievera not happy about diminished role in TV's ASAP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, March 22, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 104 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Anakpawis leader tags Army man in ambush

By Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SHOT AT LEAST 14 TIMES IN AN AMBUSH THAT killed his wife and a son, a provincial leader of the Anakpawis party-list group told investigators that he recognized one of his attackers as an Army intelligence agent, police sources said yesterday.

Immediately, the military and the police challenged militant groups to back their accusations

ANAKPAWIS/ A23

Imelda in PowerPoint gives illusion of making sense

BASTA UNRESOLVED PA ANG ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH ISSUE!

AT 77, THE WIDOW IMELDA Marcos is still as large as life, fraying a bit at the edges but bravely maintaining the peculiar frantic dignity that has always set her apart from the rest of us, who might be labeled ordinary.

"I've had the best-best-best

IMELDA/ A5

Puno to run gov't 'jueteng'

Small Town Lottery has same system as illegal numbers game

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christian V. Esguerra and Tarra V. Quismundo

INTERIOR SECRETARY Ronaldo Puno will take charge of the Small Town Lottery (STL) project being bankrolled by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to replace the illegal numbers game "jueteng," Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said STL was being suspended temporarily because the PCSO and Palawan Mayor Edward Hagedorn, head of the National Anti-jueteng Task Force, did not advise Puno about STL's implementation.

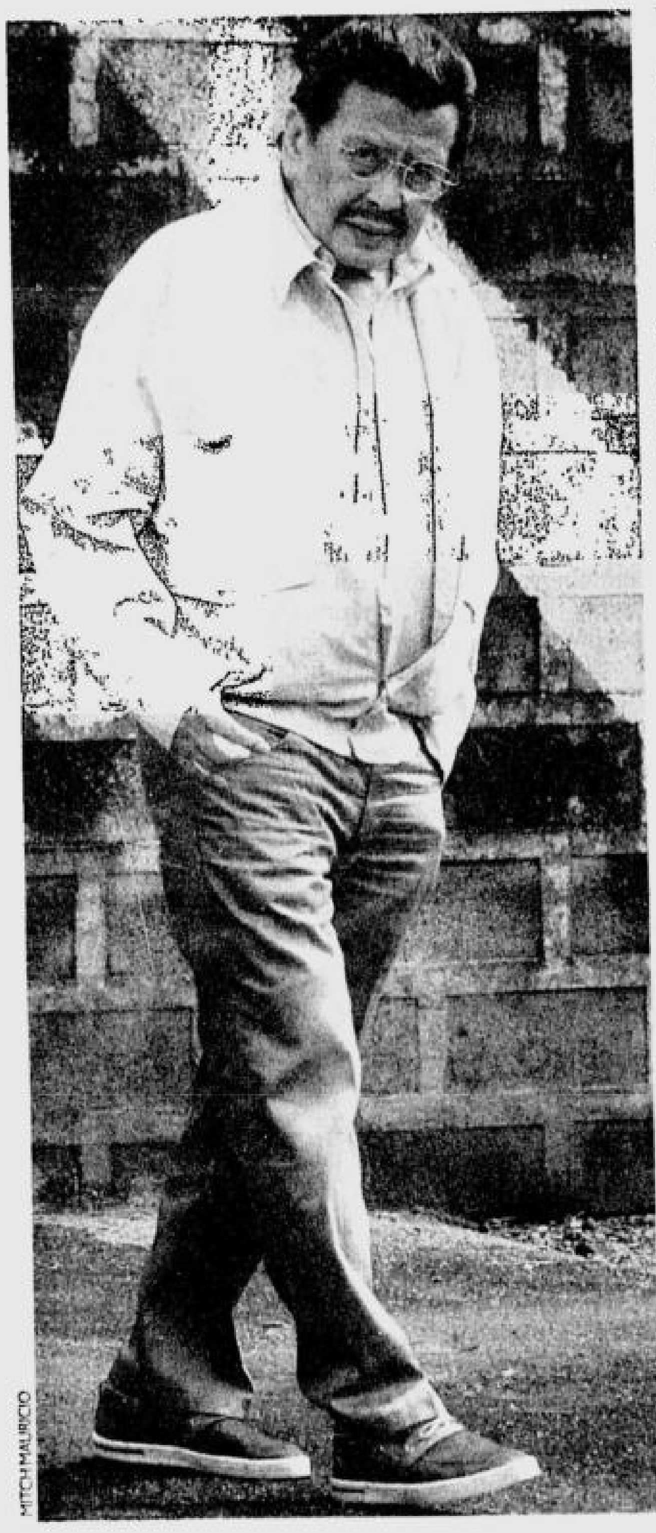
"They cannot implement this project without the full cooperation of the local government and the police," Defensor said.

The new role that Malacañang has given Puno, who was allegedly involved in backroom operations during the election campaigns of former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo, could be related to administration efforts to raise slush funds and to amend the Constitution, according to two opposition senators.

Having Puno implement STL "is like assigning a fox to guard the chicken coop,'" Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

Asked what could be behind

PUNO/ A12


MITCH MAURICIO

THE 79th DEFENSE witness today is the defendant himself, former President Joseph Estrada.

GMA rues her liason with Reds

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo regrets her liaison with leaders of militant groups who plotted to unseat then President Joseph Estrada in 2000 but are now linked to efforts to oust her, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"President Arroyo does not deny having met with leaders of various political persuasions in the runup to Edsa II. She was the constitutional successor at the time when President Estrada was threatened by massive people power and she had to try to consolidate the nation at a time of grave national necessity, which she did," Bunye said in a statement.

Malacañang issued the statement in reaction to charges by Bayan Muna Representatives

GMA RUES/ A23

WALKING THE TALK. Between columns along a corridor of Kalayaan Hall, President Arroyo chats with someone after her regular round table discussion in the press briefing room. LYN RILLON

Moment of truth: Erap in the dock

By Nelson Flores

FIVE YEARS AFTER HIS OUSTER on charges of plunder, Joseph Estrada will finally have his day in court.

Unlike the macho, swashbuckling roles that catapulted him to stardom and later to the presidential Palace, Estrada's appearance at the Sandiganbayan today will be subdued.

There will be no TV cameras in the courtroom when the ousted President confronts charges that, if proved, will either result in jail for life or death by lethal injection. *(See specific charges vs Estrada on Page A9.)*

The Sandiganbayan has refused to grant the request of Estrada that his appearance be televised, just like his riveting impeachment trial that captivated the nation and led to his ouster in a People Power revolt in January 2001.

"There will be nothing extraordinary in my testimony because I only have to tell the truth," Estrada told The Associated Press by telephone yesterday. "I'm confident that history will vindicate me from these charges by a conspiracy of the elite, church leaders and thieving politicians." *(See Estrada*

MOMENT/ A9

Cheap rice, medicine offered to anti-GMA bishops' parishes

By Christian V. Esguerra

AT A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ARE GRUMBLING about soaring prices, who can argue with offers of cheap rice? Some people can.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is quietly dangling a rehashed poverty-alleviation program in several dioceses in an effort seen by one Roman Catholic bishop as her way of courting a sector of the Church hierarchy critical of her administration.

The program offers cheap rice and low-cost medicine to some of the poorest parishes in the country, according to a letter sent out by the Office of Religious Affairs under the President. A copy of the letter was obtained by the INQUIRER over the weekend.

News of the Malacañang project followed Ms Arroyo's visits to four bishops last week.

Among those who had Ms Arroyo as a high-profile guest was Bishop Arturo Bastes of Sorsogon.

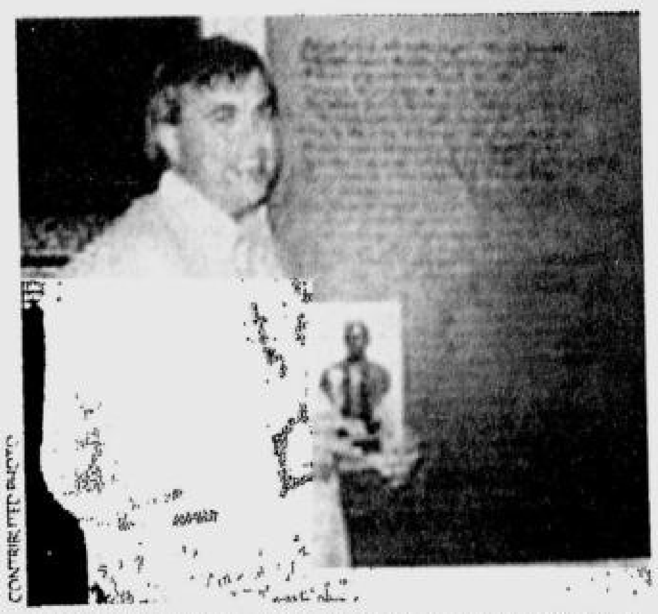
CHEAP/ A9

JOAN BONDOC

MEDIA GROUPS announce that they have filed an urgent motion in the Court of Appeals. The petitioners include (from left) Sheila Coronel, Jose Manuel Diokno, Maria Ressa, Ed Lingao and Theodore Te. *(Story on Page A2.)*

Czech envoy translates Rizal masterpiece

By Volt Contreras


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PLACE OF HONOR in Intramuros for the Czech's "Mi Ultimo Adios" with proud author Czech envoy to RP Jaroslav Ludva.

"MI ULTIMO ADIOS (My Last Farewell)," the timeless poem written by national hero Jose Rizal while awaiting his execution in 1896, was unveiled Monday night at Fort Santiago's Rizal Shrine in Intramuros—in Czech.

This latest of many versions was penned by self-confessed "shy poet" and now the Czech Republic's Ambassador to the Philippines Jaroslav Ludva.

The gesture was in celebration of what historians now consider as the immortal friendship between Rizal and his Czech friend Prof. Ferdinand Blumentritt, then a school principal in the town of Litomerice, in what is now the Czech Republic.

Blumentritt (1853-1913) is credited with, among other things, convincing Rizal to overcome his doubts about publishing "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo"—two books that would stoke the flames of the Philippine revolt against Spain.

On the eve of his death, Rizal actually wrote two pieces: "Ultimo" and a last letter to Blumentritt, his Czech "soul mate," Ludva noted.

To mark the bond between the two men—Blumentritt never came to the Philippines but corresponded with Rizal for a long time—the national hero's native town of Calamba, Laguna, and Litomerice were declared "sister cities" in 1974.

Litomerice has since built four monuments to Rizal, including a bust in City Hall, while one street in Manila has been named in honor of Blumentritt.

But while Monday's presentation

CZECH/ A7

Cardinal Rosales' true color is green

By Blanche S. Rivera

GAUDENCIO CARDINAL ROSales will show his true colors when he comes back from the Vatican with his red hat—and the country will know it's green.

The Philippines' newest cardinal and head of the powerful Archdiocese of Manila will lead the celebration of Earth Day in the Philippines next month, taking up once again an advocacy he was known for as a bishop in Mindanao nearly three decades ago.

"He readily said yes when we asked him to head the Earth Day celebration. He's very excited about it," Mother Earth-Philippines founding member Odette Alcantara told the INQUIRER yesterday.

It is the first time that the Church has taken a leading role in the environmental event, first celebrated in the country six years ago.

This year's theme, "Mea Culpa: A Call for Repentance and Atonement," will be its biggest and most sober celebration, Alcantara said.

Rosales joins a very respectable team of national convenors for Earth Day, including former First Lady Amelita Ramos, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, veteran journalist Eugenia Duran-Apostol, Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hage-

CARDINAL/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/21/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Finally, Comelec steps into bitter LP dispute

By Jerome Aning

AFTER SHOWING INITIAL HESitation, the Commission on Elections has decided to step into a bitter dispute that has split the 60-year-old Liberal Party into two factions, one supporting the embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo and the other demanding her resignation.

The Comelec yesterday directed Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and 12 others to comment on a letter by Senate President Franklin Drilon asking the poll body to declare illegal a March 2 meeting during which Atienza and his followers ousted Drilon as party president.

Atienza, LP national chair, was voted party president in the place of Drilon while Defensor was elected chair during the meeting, which Drilon denounced as a rump session engineered by Malacañang. Ms Arroyo showed up at the meeting after Atienza and Defensor's election.

The body's four-page directive gave the Atienza faction 10 days to file their comments. The order was signed by Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra, Florentino Tuason Jr. and Romeo Brawner.

In his March 3 petition to the Comelec, Drilon maintained that he was still the lawful LP president and asked the poll body to nullify the election organized by the Atienza wing and stop the leaders of the splinter group from representing themselves as LP officials.

Drilon said the election was illegal and violated partly rules. On Mar. 17, he announced the expulsion of Atienza, Defensor and other LP stalwarts who sided with the mayor.

'Internal matter'

Four days earlier, the Atienza camp submitted to Comelec a list of the "newly elected" national officers as well as minutes of the "LP Leaders' National Assembly."

Abalos had earlier described the LP dispute as an "internal matter" and said that Comelec could not intervene. He added that as far as he was concerned, Drilon was still the legitimate LP president based on the commission's documents.

However, he pointed out that the quarrel should be resolved to facilitate accreditation of official LP candidates and determine which group would be given copies of election returns.

The Liberal Party is a member of Ms Arroyo's coalition but was split after Drilon and other party leaders called for the President's resignation during a July 8 meeting on charges she cheated in the 2004 presidential election. Although Defensor was at the meeting, Atienza was absent and called the decision to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo illegal.

Atienza himself is scheduled to preside over a meeting today of the party's National Executive Council (NECO), which Drilon claims is illegal because only he, as party president, can convene the body. *With Tina G. Santos*

Media press CA on 1017

By Armand N. Nocum

MEDIA GROUPS HAVE ASKED the Court of Appeals to immediately schedule a hearing on their petition to stop the government from imposing "prior restraint" on their work, even as their lawyers lamented it appeared some CA justices were treating the issue like "a legal hot potato."

In an urgent motion filed in the appellate court, the petitioners said that after they filed their petition two weeks ago, the administration had "persisted" in its "direct and thinly veiled threats against the press; only this time the attacks are becoming more and more virulent, and more ominous."

They asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction against Malacañang and the police to stop them from censoring the media.

In their seven-page motion, they cited several incidents that indicated the administration had no intention of leaving the media alone even after the state of national emergency had been lifted.

The incidents included attempts to secure a search warrant against the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, one of the petitioners; Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor's claim that lawsuits were being planned against two media personalities, and the closure of Kodao Production's radio show over dzRJ.

Likewise, they cited a March 20 report from the intelligence community linking an INQUIRER editor and senior reporter to a suspected coup financier.

"The foregoing acts, coming within days of each other and without letup, show a deliberate pattern by the government to muzzle the press and gag protected speech," the petitioners said.

The petitioners, aside from PCIJ, included the Philippine Press Institute, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, Newsbreak, Probe Productions, Center for Community Journalism and Development, and ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs.

In a press briefing, the petitioners' lawyers also said they were concerned about indications the CA petition had become "a legal hot potato," pointing out that two weeks after the petition was filed, the CA had yet to issue a resolution.

"Even the reason for the transfer of the petition from the (CA's) ninth (division to where it was originally raffled) to its fifteenth (division) was not explained to us," lawyer Theodore Te said.

Unconfirmed reports said the appellate court had already turned down the petition due to technical frailties, including the petitioners' failure to include a certification on non-forum shopping.

"We have not received a copy of the supposed resolution, although I would like to point out that we included all the required certifications in our petition," said another lawyer, Jose Manuel Diokno.

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Polyphonic Ring Tones		6 tones	32 tones	6 tones	5 tones	5 tones	6 tones
Recordable Customized Ringer							•
Key Lock		•	•	•	•	•	
Colored LCD				•			•
Large LCD with Blue Backlight			•				
Lighted Handset Keypad			•	•	•	•	•
SMS (Text Messaging) Capable*				•	•	•	•
Phone Directory	11 stations	20 stations	200 stations	200 stations	200 stations (handset) 20 stations (base)	200 stations (handset) 20 stations (base)	200 stations
Handset Locator (Paging)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Intercom w/ 2-way paging					•	•	
Speakerphone			•	•	•	•	•
Dual Keypads					•	•	
Telephone Answering System						•	
USB Connection							•
Infrared Port for Data Exchange							•
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Senate tells House it takes 2 to Cha-cha, vows boycott of rump assembly

AFTER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVING to tell the House of Representatives that it can't go it alone on Charter change, senators yesterday vowed to boycott any "rump" constituent assembly that will be called by congressmen to amend the Constitution.

"That (boycott) seems to be a given under the circumstances because the presence of senators would be an indication of a divided Senate," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. told reporters after 22 senators signed a resolution telling House members they can't convene a constituent assembly by themselves.

"I don't think anybody will go against the intention of that resolution."

The resolution, initiated by Senate President Franklin Drilon, expresses the sense of the Senate that any proposed amendment or revision of the 1987 Constitution requires the approval of both chambers, voting separately.

Only Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who is in the United States, did not sign the resolution but he sent word he was for it.

The resolution came on the heels of claims by House leaders that they were close to gathering 195 signatures to support a resolution to amend the Constitution by convening Congress into a constituent assembly. *TJ Burgonio*

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[1] Walzem, R.L., C.J. Dillard, and J.B. German. Crit. Rev. Food & Sci & Nutr. 42:353, 2002. [2] Meister A. Cancer Res 1994:54(8):1969-1976.

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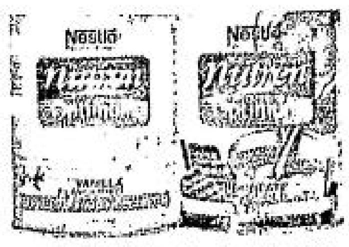
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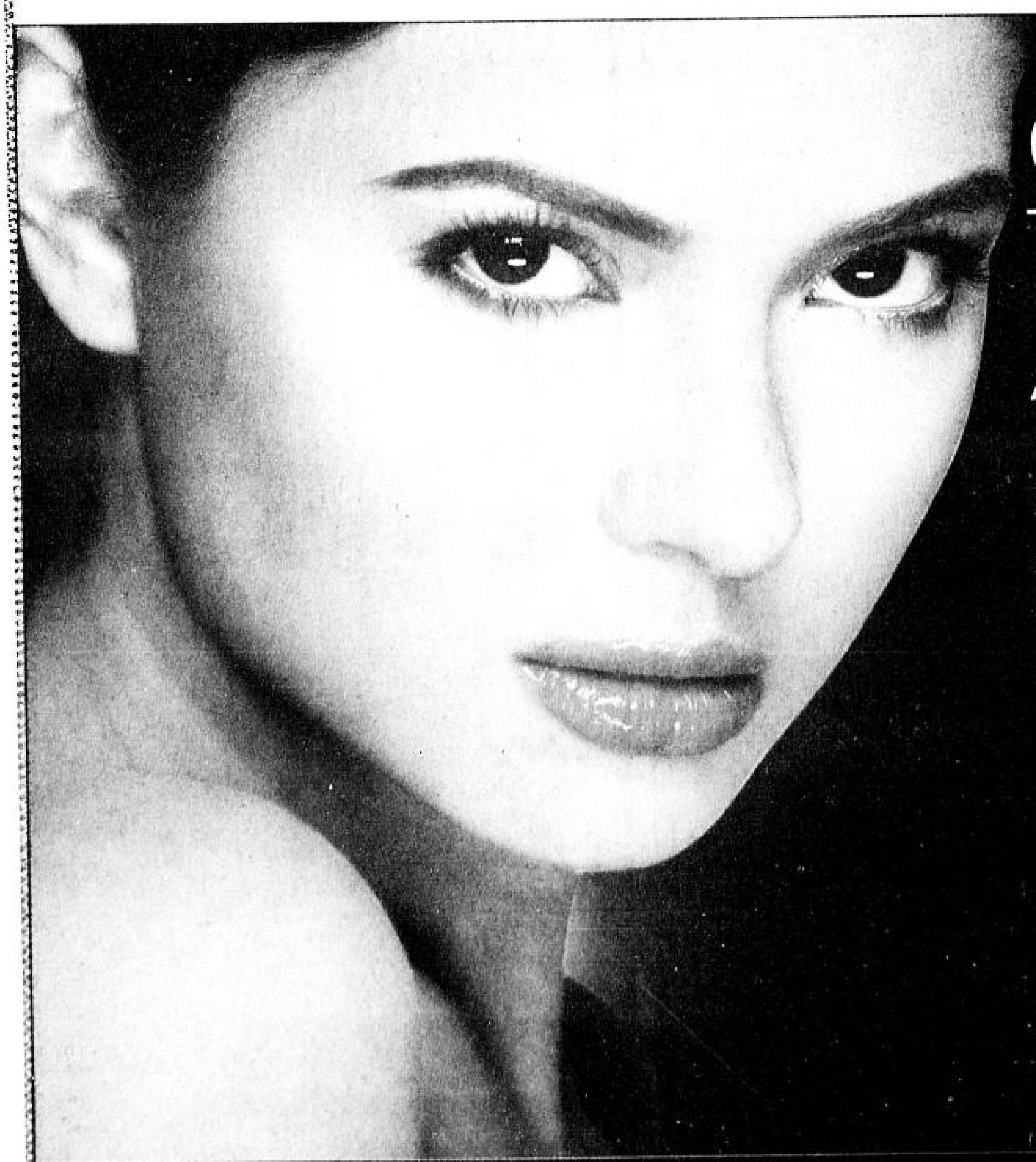
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Correction

IN THE ARTICLE, "Cavite coffee industry gets brewing," that appeared on Page B4 of the March 19 issue, the name of the chief executive officer of Figaro Coffee Corp. was misstated. It is Pacita Juan, not Pacita San Juan.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph. Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Zuce has served his purpose for impeachment, says Zamora

By Norman Bordadora

MICHELANGELO ZUCE HAD SERVED his purpose as far as the opposition's campaign to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo was concerned.

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora yesterday said Zuce had led the opposition to persons who had participated in Ms Arroyo's alleged payoff of local election officials at her Quezon City residence just before the May 2004 polls.

"We never planned to use him (as a witness in the impeachment complaint). If you will remember, he was a witness for the 'jueteng' (inquiry in the Senate). What he said led us to other witnesses who were actual participants," Zamora told the INQUIRER.

Zamora had headed the opposition impeachment team in the House of Representatives last year when the complaint against President Arroyo was thrown out by the administration's allies.

Zuce, a former Malacañang operative working under presidential political liaison Joey Rufino, had testified in a Senate inquiry into jueteng, the illegal numbers game, that he was present when Ms Arroyo met with election officials at her home and appealed for their help. As soon as she left, Zuce had said, the wife of a suspected jueteng lord distributed P30,000 each to the poll officials.

The other day, Zuce resurfaced as a member of the government's antijueteng task force in connection with the implementation of the Small Town Lottery (STL), the legalized form of jueteng.

Antijueteng czar Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn on Monday announced the 30-year-old Zuce had volunteered his services.

Malacañang, however, denied any hand in Zuce's return to the government fold.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said yesterday Zuce was neither paid nor did the Palace initiate the moves to get him back.

Radio reports yesterday said another jueteng witness, Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor, had also become disgruntled with his handlers.

Like Zuce, Mayor admitted he had regrets about coming out last year and testifying in the Senate jueteng investigation.

But his regrets, he said, were limited to the senators' failure to keep their promise to help him financially.

Unlike Zuce, he said, he would never jump to the government side.

Manila Water

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of **MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC.** ("Manila Water") will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City, on Monday, April 3, 2006, at 9:00 A.M., with the following

AGENDA

1. Determination of quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of the Stockholders' Meeting on May 12, 2005
3. Notation of Manila Water's 2005 Annual Report and approval of its audited Financial Statements as of December 31, 2005 incorporated in said Annual Report
4. Ratification of all acts and resolutions during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Management Committees and Officers of Manila Water
5. Election of 11 members of the Board of Directors
6. Election of External Auditor
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

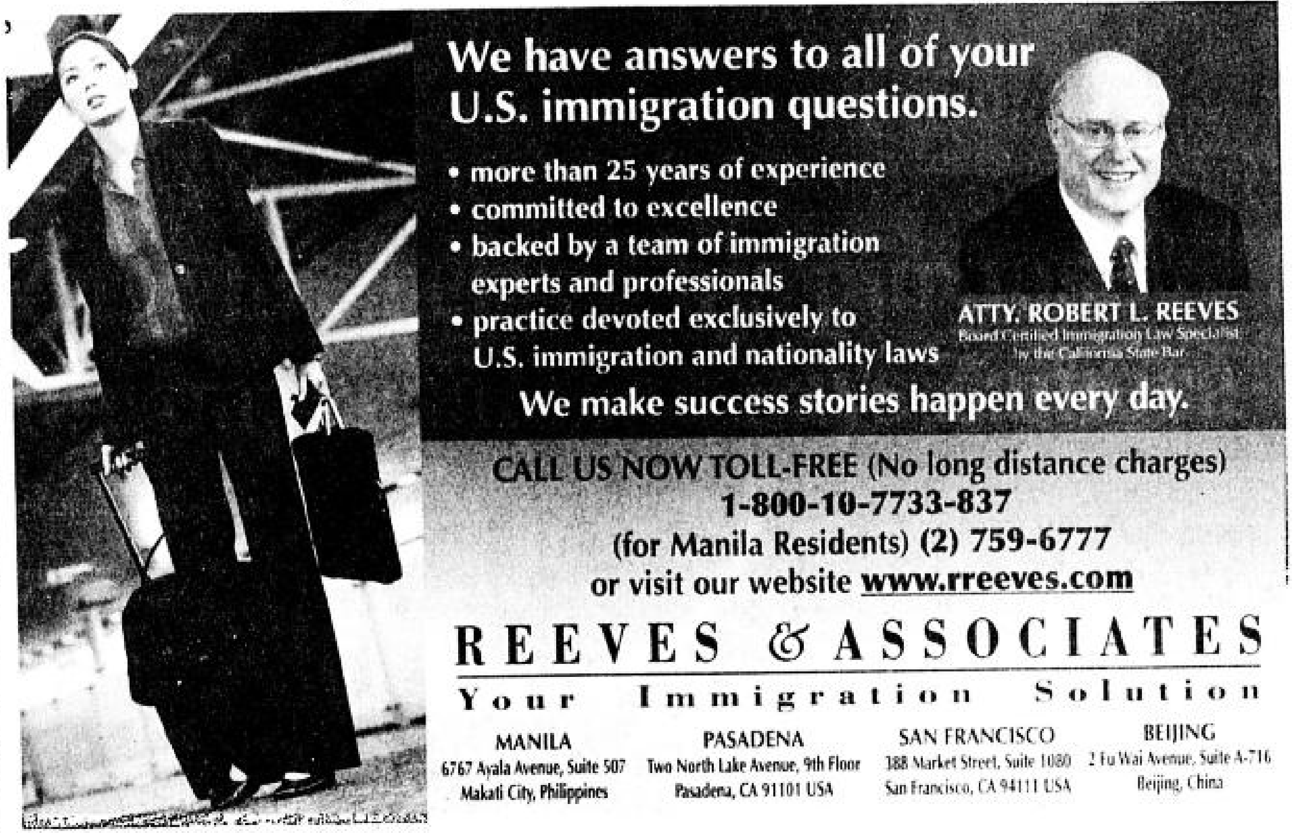
Only stockholders of record as of March 3, 2006 will be entitled to notice and to vote at this meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Book of Manila Water will be closed from March 3, 2006 to April 3, 2006.

The Annual Stockholders' Meeting will be followed by an Organizational Meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors for the election/ appointment of the principal officers of Manila Water and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Balara, Quezon City, February 24, 2006.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRIMER B. LEONEN
Corporate Secretary



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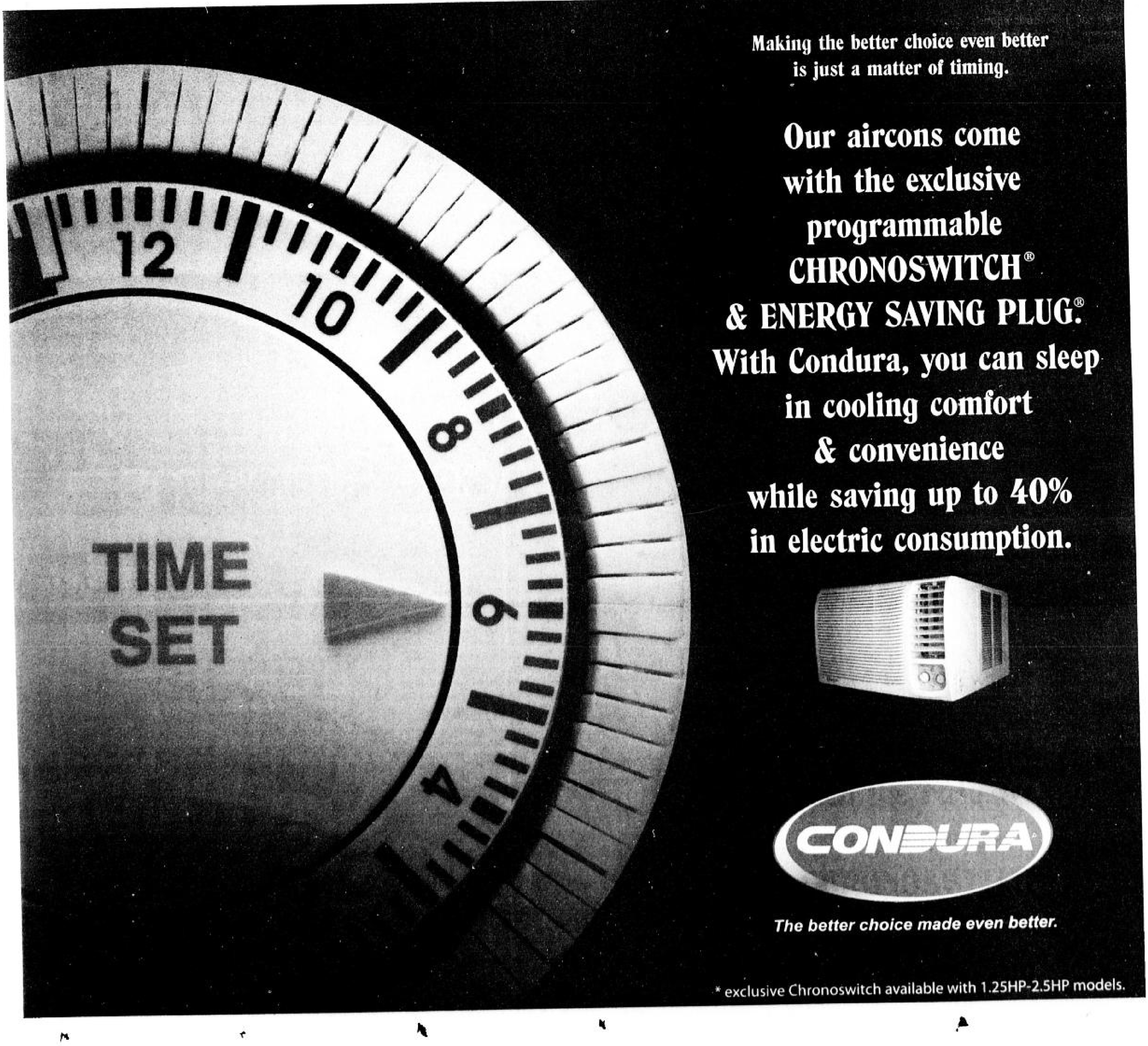

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"INCOMPREHENSIBLE" PowerPoint presentation of her "tangled philosophy of life," writes the New York Times of the still news-grabbing Imelda Marcos. PDI PHOTO

Imelda . . .

From page A1

and the worst-worst-worst," she said in an interview in her apartment, with its golden upholstery, its old Masters paintings, its ranks of framed photographs and its buckets of artificial flowers.

In the 20 years since she and her husband, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, were driven into exile and disgrace by something called People Power, she has retrofitted her tangled philosophy of life into a truly incomprehensible PowerPoint presentation.

During the interview, she pointed a tiny pistol straight ahead and a red laser dot appeared on a screen in the middle of a heart-shaped face labeled "Happy."

The dot moved sideways to a scowling upside-down heart marked "Sad," and then to a fractured circle called "Pacman," a symbol of aggressive consumption. The story of her life.

"You put it all together," she said hopefully, aiming now at a shape that looked a bit like a flower, "an upright heart, an upside-down heart, and what you get is peace. Peace and freedom."

Her patter was so realistic, it gave the illusion of making sense.

"Beauty is God made real," she said, and, "The opposite of love is not hate, it is selfishness," and, "The only things we keep are those we give away," and, "Common sense is common to all."

She had run through it so often that it gave her relentless mind a chance to rest, and both she and her listener followed the peregrinations of the red dot half asleep.

"The Seven Pillars to Moral Regeneration—ecological order; human order; economic order; social order; moral order; cosmic order; peace and order."

Plastic jewelry

Her mind wandered and she touched her fingers to a very large yellow brooch pinned to what seemed to be a well-worn blue dress.

"Plastic," she said.

This remark was met with surprise.

"I don't wear jewels anymore," she announced. "They stole all my jewels. These are recycled garbage that I make into jewels."

Last year, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) was set to auction off the Marcos jewelry collection composed of pieces from the world's foremost jewelers like Bulgari, Cartier and Harry Winston, but the former first lady went to court to stop the sale.

Her emeralds and rubies were in other people's hands now, still seeming to exert the magnetic power of wealth that seduced Imelda Marcos and her husband, who died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that the former first lady might be able to recover some, if not all, of her fabulous jewelry if the PCGG would push through with a plan to strike a compromise with her.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said that an out-of-court settlement on the jewelry, estimated to be worth $20 million, would be a good start in the government's attempt to fast-track the recovery of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth.

Reveal true value

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Q. Pimentel Jr. said it would be unwise for the government to forge an out-of-court settlement with the Marcos family if they "refuse to reveal the value of the assets that are under their possession and control." *(Related story on Page A13.)*

Pimentel also rejected a reported plan of the PCGG to allow the Marcoses to keep 30 percent of the plundered wealth because it would be "too big and can by no means be justified, considering the length of time the Marcoses and their cronies had enjoyed the perks that money could buy."

He suggested that the Marcos family be allowed to retain "only 10 percent of the money."

A special place

Today, Marcos continues to experience some of the worst-worst-worst in her life—despite the opulence of her apartment and the social swirl she still enjoys.

Since she returned from Hawaii in 1991, she has been fending off court cases—at one point narrowly avoiding jail.

Still, the government's lawyers are hounding her. No wonder Marcos feels put upon.

"Even the Bible says there's a special place in hell for those who oppress widows and orphans," she said. *New York Times News Service*

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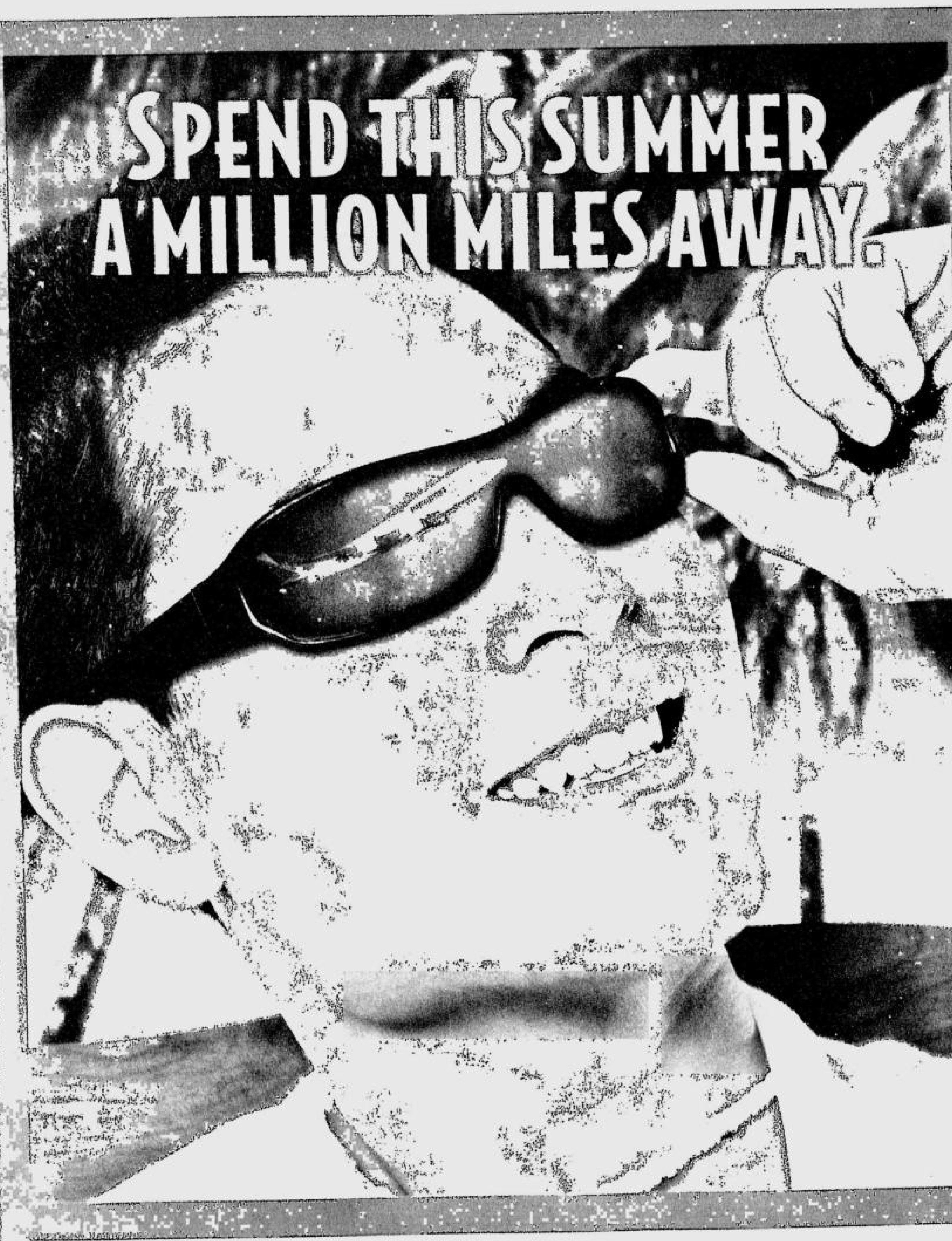
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Cardinal Rosales' true color is green

From page A1

dorn, former beauty queen Margie Moran, businessman Jose Concepcion, noted environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa and Narda Camacho, among others.

Rosales will celebrate Mass, a sacred liturgy for the Integrity of Creation, at the Smokey Mountain in Tondo on April 22. It will be one of his first big Eucharistic celebrations as cardinal after his thanksgiving Mass on April 1.

He will use a natural altar made from a long strip of wood on the stump of an old molave tree and designed by National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

A symphony of 40 choirs directed by Carminda Regala, musical director of the Union Church of Manila, will be the strong voices that will echo an equally strong message on environmental protection expected from Rosales.

Paradise Heights

"Smokey Mountain is the most articulate, most picturesque manifestation of earth abuse. It became a national shame ... [but] now residents call a part of it Paradise Heights," Alcantara said.

The Offertory for the Mass for the Integrity of Creation will include:

- A certificate from De La Salle University bearing its pledge to plant one billion trees to represent reforestation.
- A recycled product.
- A net representing the need for coastal cleanup.
- A design for an eco-village.
- Victoria Soap representing an eco-friendly industry.
- The book "Legal Arsenal for the Environment" by Antonio Oposa and a copy of Republic Act No. 9003 or the ecological Solid Waste Management Act to represent the need for green governance.
- A flask of coco-diesel and a solar panel to represent renewable energy.
- Tree currencies for 10,000 seedlings from the Manila Seedling Bank.
- Bread and wine.

200 groups involved

Earth Day Network Philippines, a loose network of some 200 organizations overseeing preparations for Earth Day, is launching tonight a 30-day countdown to the big event.

A cultural presentation titled "Panaghoy at Panata kay Inang Kalikasan" will kick off the countdown at 5 p.m. at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City.

The women's group Abanse! Pinay will also hold a requiem Mass for some 80 of its members who died in the mudslide in Southern Leyte last month.

"It's the first time we're doing a countdown to heighten environmental awareness," Sagip Pasig Movement director Meth Jimenez said.

The 30-day countdown will feature a trade fair hosted by the business community. The fair will highlight organic and recycled materials and alternative livelihoods from solid waste management.

There will also be the annual fluvial parade from Intramuros to Mandaluyong City up the Pasig River, a signature campaign against mining and logging, and the Lason sa Kalikasan awards.

Not just blame game

Alcantara said the call for repentance and atonement seeks to instill in all sectors—the government, media, Church, industry, schools, families and even the Armed Forces—the need to care for the environment.

"It (environmental degradation) is not just a blame game. Not everything is the fault of the government ... It's a collective fault because we're stewards of creation," she said.

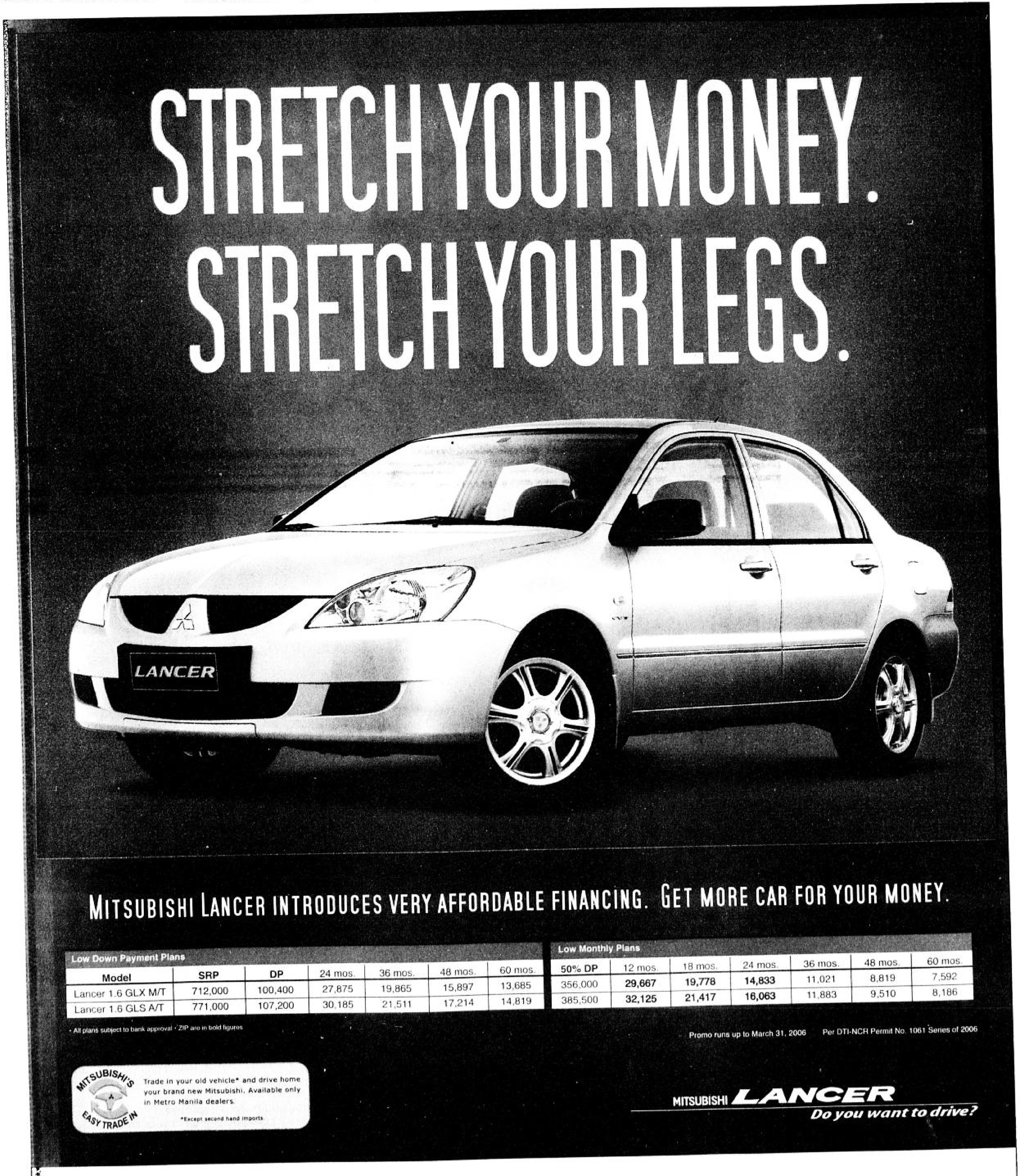
Alcantara broached the idea of the Church leading this year's Earth Day celebration to Rosales. She met him for the first time on Jan. 15 during the Feast of the Sto. Niño at Smokey Mountain.

Iconic

Sitting across from the archbishop during lunch, Alcantara simply blurted out, "Wouldn't it be a good idea if the Church led the Earth Day celebration this year, knowing you are an environmentalist?"

Rosales immediately said, "Sure," and assigned Smokey Mountain parish priest Fr. Ben Beltran as the point person between himself and Earth Day Network.

"He said he was so glad that there were now groups who spoke his language," Alcantara said of the cardinal. "He is really a green icon."



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CELEBRATING "The Immortal Friendship Between Jose Rizal and Ferdinand Blumentritt" is an exhibit opened by the Czech Republic's Senate President Premysl Sobotka. He also unveiled a marker of Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios" translated into Czech. Here, Sobotka greets one of Rizal's descendants, Asoncio Lopez Rizal, while Senate President Drilon looks on.

Czech envoy translates Rizal's masterpiece

From page A1

was considered an official gift from the Czech government, it carried more meaning for Ludva.

"I really fell in love with Jose Rizal," the diplomat told the INQUIRER. "A true *ilustrado* in those days, the most famous personality here and beyond this country."

Readings on Rizal

Ludva, who was assigned to Manila in September last year, said he first thought of a Czech translation of "Ultimo" in January.

Before sitting down to write, he read several books on Rizal—including two by Czech authors—which centered on the patriot's final hours as well as his friendship with Blumentritt.

Although he translated the masterpiece from the original Spanish, he also studied the versions in English and German to further distill the hero's "message."

One weekend in late January, Ludva decided to send "my wife, my daughter and my mother-in-law to Mindoro, because I needed to be alone for 48 hours." he said.

He was home alone in his Forbes Park residence writing, "and within 48 hours I did it," he said.

'Jewel of romantic poetry'

Ludva said it was "very difficult" to do justice to the poem in his mother tongue since he not only had to find the proper Czech words for Rizal's "rich Spanish vocabulary ... but I also wanted to capture his (Rizal's) good sense of rhyme in that language."

The envoy described "Ultimo" as a "jewel of romantic poetry in East Asia."

And unless one knew of Rizal's situation when he wrote it, the reader could not easily sense that these were the musings of a man hours away from the firing squad, Ludva noted.

"You can feel that he was not [sad]. He was upbeat when the hero wrote it. Rizal's message to his closest friends and family was: 'Be happy, life is nice, I will give my life to my country because I want it to prosper in the future. It is my contribution to the next generation,'" he said.

"It was a long poem but it's wonderful and I admire him for that. He was about to be executed yet still he found something deep inside his soul to give to his countrymen," Ludva added.

Place of honor

An aspiring poet in his youth, Ludva said he considered his translation of "Ultimo" as his first "published" work in verse.

"Published" was an understatement, since the Czech version was mounted—on what could be considered a place of honor—right next to the original Spanish text on a wall of the Rizal Shrine.

"I have written a lot of poems but I was too shy to publish them because I felt somebody would say it's not right. In those days, I was so devoted to writing poetry I thought it would be the end of my life if it was not accepted by the public," Ludva said.

"But now I have decided to return to my roots—and be more daring," he said. "I think what I did was not only a must for a Czech ambassador. It was more of a devotion."

From memory

On the night of the unveiling, Ludva apparently thought his two days translating the Rizal were not enough to honor the hero.

The program indicated he would give the closing remarks. But he went beyond the usual spiel and surprised everyone by reciting from memory the original Spanish version of "Ultimo."

He delivered all 14 stanzas—each consisting of five lines—to the applause of the gathering that included fellow diplomats, Philippine officials and educators, as well as Rizal's descendants.

Visibly moved were the Filipinos in the audience for here was a foreigner appreciating, and perhaps even surpassing them in mastering a national literary gem.

The ceremony was graced by Senate President Franklin Drilon, visiting Czech Senate President Premysl Sobotka and National Commission on Culture and the Arts chair Ambeth Ocampo.

"Mi Ultimo Adios" has been translated into 70 foreign languages and 57 Philippine dialects.

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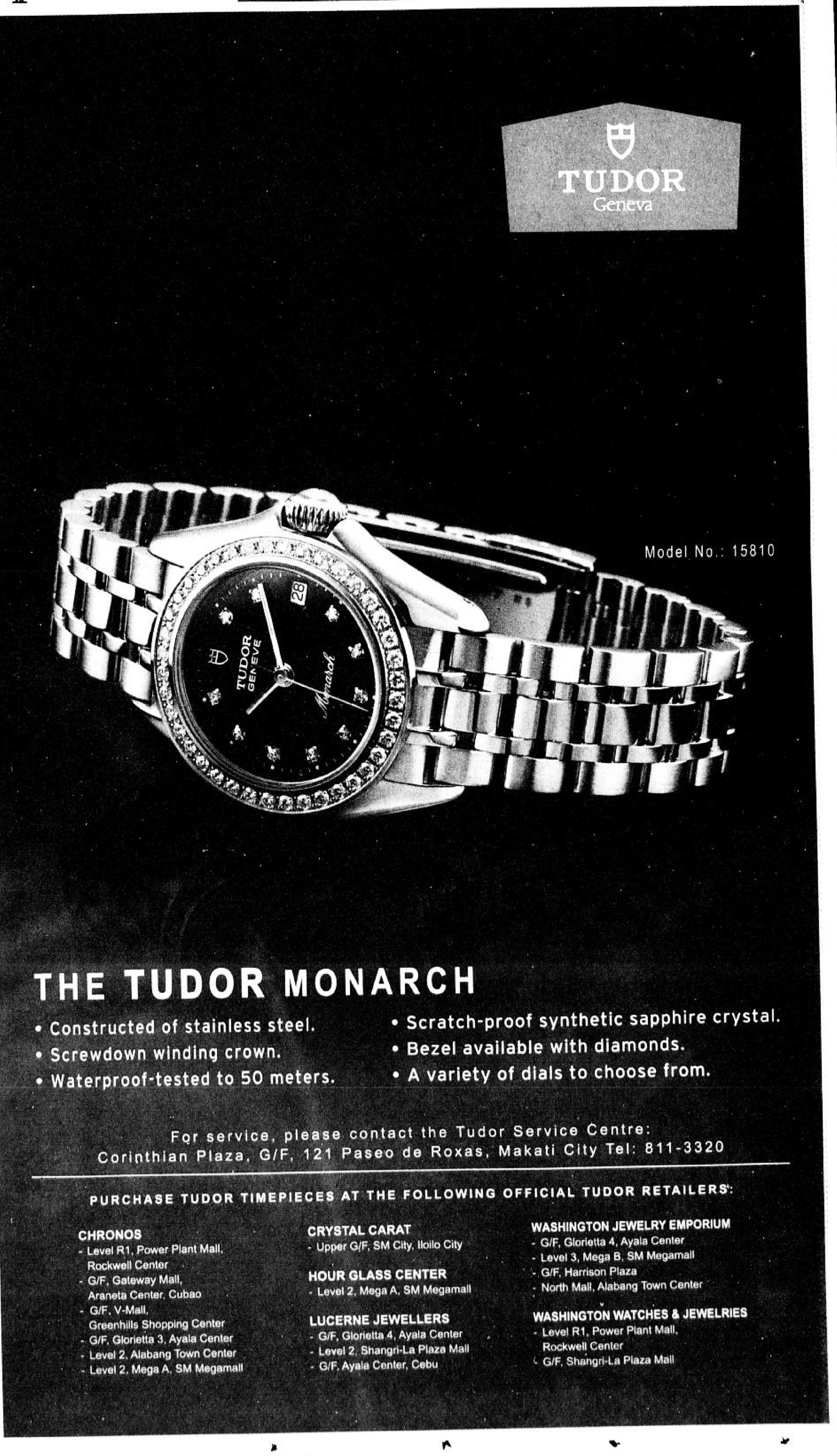

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Babilonia, Marjorie
Babst, Suzette
Bacalta, Divina M.
Bacobo, Jorge
Badal, Mary Ann
Bagatsing, Charl L.
Bagelang, Virgilio M.
Bagon, Antonio
Baisa Marloule M.
Balangue, Nydia
Balanquit, Leonardo
Balbago, Francis
Balbuena, Zonette
Balce, Mikaela B.
Balce, Pilarng Buyson
Balca, Regina B
Balcells, Anna C.
Balderas, Aurelio
Balderas, Leonila
Balderrama, Agnes
Baley, Lydia A.
Bain, Joanne M
Balindo, Virginia
Balingit, Anabella
Baliwag, Jane Russel
Ballatan, Raquel
Ballinan, Jeannette
Balmaseda, Tess
Balquedra, Nenlyn
Baltasar, Rene C.
Baltazar, Armando
Baltazar, Teresita D.
Banaag, Gladys
Banal, Daisy
Bañez, Reynaldo
Baniqued, Sheril
Baniqued, Vincent
Banson, Loudette
Bantayan, Mila L.
Bantug, Anna Liza
Baquing, Olivia
Baranda, Rickymo
Barbosa, Servando C
Barboza, Lourdes
Baril, Agustin
Barnes, Marilou
Barredo, Tata
Barrera, Angie
Barriga, Eleonora
Barrios, Manetta
Barro, Cecilio
Barut, Crisolda
Basa, Lilibeth
Basa, Manuel
Basa, Paz C.
Basco, Riza A.
Basilio, Pamela
Bastol, Virgilio
Basmayor, Vicky R.
Batac, Rowena L.
Batalla, Immaculate
Baulos, Liza
Bautista, Ana Maria
Bautista, Carrie A.
Bautista, Celine S.
Bautista, Efren
Bautista, Leonisa
Bautista, M. Anthony
Bautista, Marlon F.
Bautista, Marjorie
Bautista, Mel
Bautista, Menchu
Bautista, Ranya
Bautista, Rosario
Bauzon, Judilyn
Bauzon, Tina
Bawalan, Analy
Bayani, Joy
Bejar, Maryjan
Bejar, Tony
Beloy, Lydia A.
Bello, Cristina
Bello, Gilda
Belonio, Ginalyn
Beltran, Danilo
Beltran, Gloria
Beltran, Jo
Beñobon, Marlyn
Benoito, Carmencita
Benedicto, Charrie
Benedicto, Elenita S.
Benedicto, Emma
Benedicto, Hilda
Benedicto, Jose R.
Benedicto, John Paul
Benedicto, Krishna
Benedicto, Lorenzo
Benedicto, Ramon
Benedicto, Xavier
Bengzon, Leticia A.
Bengzon, Romela M.
Benito, Loida M.
Benta, Lydia M.
Bentulan, Edgar
Bergano, Reagan
Bernabe, Elena R.
Bernadette, V
Bernardo, Joan
Berones, Monica S.
Besin, Emy
Biay, Evelyn
Biborsa, Oscar
Biboso, Genevie O.
Bichara, Benjamin
Bichara, Cristina
Bichara, Cristine
Bichara, Victor
Bichelmeir, Anne
Bichelmeir, Peter
Bico, Andy
Bigay, Gerald,
Bigay, Sandra
Bigero, Irma
Billano, Francisco
Billano, Rosario M
Binag, Arlene
Binag, Joy
Binag, Vicenta
Biscocho, Eleanor N.
Blanch, Consuelo
Blancia, Dr. Rowen B
Blanco, Wilfred
Blanquera, Milagros
Bocobo, Dulce
Bodono, Alda A.
Bolde, Lucy
Bolintiam, Vickie
Boncan, Maria
Boncodin, Al
Bonggo, Bing
Bonggo, Carlo
Bonggo, Enrico
Bonggo, M.Esperanza
Bonggo, Francis
Bonggo, Gene
Bonggo, Generoso
Bonggo, Janice
Bonggo, Rio
Bonnevie, Joel
Bontigao, Tito
Borbe, Efren
Borda, Loida
Borgaily, Milit
Borgaily, Susana
Borja, Aileen
Borja, Aileen
Borja, Christine
Borja, Evangeline
Borja, Jojo
Borja, Mancion
Borja, Marietta
Borja, Monette
Borja, Oscar
Borromeo, Eric S.
Borromeo, Magda S.
Borromeo, Shirley
Botecano, Jonathan
Bravo, Betty B.
Bravo, M.
Breguera, Virgilio
Briones, Alice R.
Briones, Blas
Briones, Marianne
Brilania, Mary Grace
Brodit, Moonyean S
Bruno, Jasmine
Brusole, Baby
Buan, Olivia
Buenaflor, Diego B.
Buenaflor, Joaquin
Buenaflor, Kathyrn B.
Buenaflor, Teresa B.
Buenaventura, Eugene
Buenaventura, Kathy
Buencamino, Bessy
Buencamino, Grace
Buencamino, Victor Jr.
Bueno, Lauro
Buensalido, Joy
Buensuceso, Chesca
Buensuceso, Ed
Bugoy, Mercedes
Buhay, Ledy
Buhay, Roger
Bumaat, Teodis
Buñag, Baby
Buñag, Edna
Buñag, Jom
Buñag, Peachy
Buraga, Arlyn
Burgos, Freddie
Butanes, Brian SDB
Buyson, Elsa Torres
Cabachete, Lilith
Cabading, Mercedes
Caballero, Kristine Mae
Caballero, Ma Agnes
Caballero, Mildred T.
Cabangon, Noven
Cabaylo, Gilbert OSJ
Cabe, Anna Marie S.
Caberto, Bhoy
Cabiging, Corazon
Cabochan, Boji L.
Cabrejas, Malbar
Cabrera, Alice
Cabrera, Enrico
Cabrera, Jasmin
Cabrera, Ramona
Cabrera, Seny
Cabunag, Glady A.
Cabunas, Jecyl
Cabungason, Liza
Cabuntas, Monchel
Cacao, German
Cacho, Bettina M.
Cacho, Francisco M.
Cacho, Jose Man M
Cacho, Ma Elena
Cacho, Ma Lourdes
Cacho, Teresa B
Cacho, Rafael M.
Cadalio, Joel Jr.
Caguimsal, Cherry
Caguioa, Zenaida
Cahati-an, Ana Gina
Calagos, Dante R
Calamiong, Charmaine
Calamiong, Kristine
Calara Deza B.
Calatrava, Nena
Calayan, Charity May
Calayco, Emma
Calderon, Lydia T.
Calderon, Robert OSJ
Cali, Asnida B
Calingas, Vangie
Calleja Roy & family
Calma, Violeta
Calot, Goada
Camacho, Patrick
Cambares, Rebecca
Caminos, Vicenta
Camos Mila
Campa, Marilou L
Campos, Hyasmin B.
Campos, Rhoda
Cañada Maria Sue P.
Canamo, Romy
Candao, Moham
Cando, Rex
Canellas, Rowena
Canezo, Virgilio
Canicula, Amy
Canicula, Edna
Canillas, Florencia
Canosa, Rafael
Cantay, Mylene
Cantoria, Jolly A.
Canuto, Mantes
Caolle, Lou
Caolio, Maricel C.
Capalaran, Ria
Caparas, Kay
Caparas, Vicente
Caparaz, Emilia
Caporal, Mylene
Caputo, Norman
Carabio, Anthony
Carabio, Antonio
Carabio, Jelina
Carabio, Joselina
Caraig, Reynato
Carpizo, Nergielyn
Cardenas, Luich
Cardinio, Arnie
Canaga, Jovy
Canillas, Rowena H.
Carizu, Eugene
Carpio, Marie Angelle
Carrion, Mari
Carumba, Lourdes
Casal, Medel
Casala, Milagros
Casaiz, Tony V.
Casas, Ana
Casera, Corazon
Casin, Sarah
Casipong, Nelson
Casis, Anslyn
Castañeda, Carlita
Castañedam El
Castaner, Carmen
Castelo, Ramil A
Castillo, Conchita G.
Castillo, Fe
Castillo, Grace
Castillo, Hilda P.
Castillo, Lilian
Castillo, Marie
Castillo, Modesto
Castillo, Tatic
Castro, Allan
Castro, Ann2
Castro, Carlos M.
Castro, Jacqulyn
Castro, Poly
Catabay, Artemio
Catacutan, Teresita
Catahimkan, Chat
Catalan, Bryan
Catapang, Ronilo G.
Catubig, Glicena
Catubig, Marites
Cauguiran, Alexander
Cavestany, Docker
Cea, Bonifacio V.
Celdran, Analou
Celdran, Jack
Celdran, King
Celdran, Teresita
Celebrar, Alice
Celestino, Anna
Celestino, Maricris
Celine, A.
Celis, Rupert
Centeno, Maricel
Centeno, Noemi
Centeno, Rhea
Cerrada, M. Magdalene
Certeza, Jessie
Cervantes, Lingling
Cervantes, Lilo
Cervantes, Simon G.
Chan, Anna V
Chan, Mel
Chan, Milagros M.D.
Chanco, Diana
Chanco, Miguel Antonio
Chanyungco, Engracia
Chanyungco, Mandee
Chavez, Venson
Cheng, Rick
Chio, Ann Rossel
Chio, Aurora V.
Chuco Ma Cristina
Choi, Mark
Choi, Penelope
Choy, Gregory
Choy, Julie M
Christiasen, Julia
Chua, Armando J.
Chua, Jeffrey
Chua, Levy
Chua, Nancy M.
Chuldian, Mitzi
Cinco, Maricel
Cinco, Wilson
Clarion, Janice B.
Claro, Erlinda M.
Clauna, Charito
Clavanio, Carlitos
Clavena, Sheryl
Clemente, O.
Clerino, Ma. Lourdes
Co, Candice Julianna
Co, Edith
Co, Jonathan G.
Co, Violeta Carlvio J.
Cobarrubias, Bocky
Codero, Dennis
Codera, Jerry
Coderias, Pereme
Cojuangco, Alissa
Colayco, Emma
Collado, Gemma
Collado, Margarita
Collado Rocelio
Comeholo, Nita H.
Comia, Sheba
Concepcion, Daisy M.
Condat, Joyce
Conde, Margaret
Constantino, Ryahan
Contreras, Violeta
Cordero, Valerie Cybil
Coronel, Concepcion
Corpuz, Germelinda
Corpuz, Karen
Corpuz, Mercy
Corros, Jocelyn
Cortes, Maria Aniza
Cortez, Frichie
Cortez, Mary Ann
Cortez, R S
Cortez, Rowena
Cortez, Sonny
Coso, Ivi
Costelo Angelle
Cresencio, Fr Silvester
Crisol, Flordeluna
Crisostomo, Oliver D.
Cruz, Allan Tom
Cruz, Anatolio
Cruz, Angie
Cruz, Blessie Labra
Cruz, Carmina
Cruz, Charlie
Cruz, Donus
Cruz, Eric
Cruz, Erick
Cruz, Ferdie
Cruz, Francisca
Cruz, Frederick
Cruz, Hermie
Cruz, Iloana R F
Cruz, Jessie Jr
Cruz Joey
Cruz, Lani
Cruz, Liberty
Cruz, Lila
Cruz, Ma Elena D.
Cruz, Marylou
Cruz, Malea Angela
Cruz, Monina
Cruz, Nena
Cruz, Nico T. Ibsa
Cruz, Nini
Cruz, Nona
Cruz, Rebecca
Cruz, Romina Grace
Cruz, Ronnie
Cruz, Rowena M.
Cruz, Sonia
Cruz, Teresita
Cruz, Tess
Cruz, Vicky P.
Cruz, Violeta
Cruzada, Sharon
Cruzata, Leonard
Cu, Dionne
Cua Ho, Richard John
Cuaresma, Rio
Cuaycong, Patty
Cuenca, Cheryl
Cuenca, Gerald
Cuenca, Josie
Cuenca, Mia Nicolas
Cuenca, Pinky
Cuenco, Joanna Marie
Cuerva, Ramon
Cuevas, Tessie P.
Cuisia, Concepcion
Cuisia, Ma Carmen
Cusal, Manny
Custodio, Cesar
Custodio, Danilo
Custodio, Jennifer
Custodio, Romulo
Cuyegkeng, Antonio
Cuyegkeng, Manolita
Dacaldacal, Edgar
Daclan, Carmencita
Dadios, Elena O.
Dagdag, Cora
Dagdag, Maricel
Dabunan, Jhunrey
Dalde, Ma Cristina
Dalusung, Anita C
Damag, Fely
Danac, Opeen
Danao, Joanne
Dancil, Lady Romar
Daniel, Raquel
Daniel, Rossal
Danta, Ray Adrian
Dapogracion, Elenita
Daquial, Carol M.
Dario, Janine C.
Dario, Maribel Carag
Darlucio, Edna
Dato, Angelo T.
Datoc, Anjay
Datoc, Katrina G.
Datu, Kay B.
Datu, Lyndon B.
David, Bing
David, Fr. Jayson
David, Lydia M.
David, Maricar Araneta
David, Ronnie
David, Tita F.
Daws, Shelley
Dayamo, Vanessa
Dayril, Joy
Daza, Noli
De Asis, Analiza M.
De Asis, Merle
De Asis, Sandra
De Castro, Bridget
De Castro, Gerlanda
De Cervantes, Tomas
De Deus Maria, Elias
De Dios, Victor
De Gracia, Jo
De Guia, Chita
De Guia, Rachelle
De Guzman, Cheryl
De Guzman, Eduardo
De Guzman, Elvira
De Guzman, Ernesto
De Guzman, Fernand
De Guzman, Louie
De Guzman, Maja
De Guzman, Myrna
De Guzman, Pam
De Guzman, Rhea
De Jesus, Asuncion
De Jesus, Lheza
De Jesus, Maria M.
De Jesus, Mila V.
De la Cruz, Agnes
De la Cruz, Aveline
De la Cruz, Bong
De la Cruz, Ella
De la Cruz, Gerald
De la Cruz, Gigi
De la Cruz, Jennifer
De la Cruz, Linda
De la Cruz, Lynlie
De la Cruz, Norman
De la Cruz, Raymundo
De la Luna, Rogie
De la Paz, Anne Grace
De la Peña, Lydia B.
De la Torre, Maricel
De Lara, Anabelle
De Lara, Ellen
De Lara, Rodolfo S
De Lara, Sayne
De Leon, Amelita L.
De Leon, Antonio A.
De Leon, Antonio Jr
De Leon, Bernadette
De Leon, Bettina P.
De Leon, Bunny
De Leon, Elinor P.
De Leon, Ernesto
De leon, Grace
De Leon, Jose
De Leon, Lee
De Leon, Lourdes G.
De Leon, Margarita G.
De Leon, Mary Madrigal
De Leon, Marybeth L.
De Leon, Michael
De Leon, Milot
De Leon, Nieves
De Leon, Patricio P.
De Leon, Rhonel
De Leon, Sunshine
De Leon, Vicente Rufino
De Leon, Vicky
De Leon, Yasmael V.
De Lima, Jo Anne B.
De los Reyes, Hilda
De los Reyes, Proceso
De los Reyes, Rebecca
De los Santos, Cora
De los Santos, Romeo
De Mesa, Rommel
De Ocampo, Abel SDB
De Pablo, Gelson
De Pano, Evelyn Espino
De Pano, Mara
De Prieto, Rose Marie
De Sousa, Mario SDB
De Vera, Cipriano
De Vera, Elise
De Vera, Pelagio
De Vera, Vickie
De Veyra, Patricia V.
De Villa, Baby
De Villa, Eleonor
De Villa, Tenita
De Villa, V.A.
Decal, Ma. Cristina D.
Dedace, Eric J.
Deleo, Marilia
Del Casal, Malu
Del Fonso, Mila A.
Del Mundo, Olvido M
Del Rosario, Bobbi
Del Rosario, Carolina
Del Rosario, Evelyn
Del Rosario, Mario
Del Rosario, Pacita
Del Socorro, Rebecca
Dela Cruz, Ella V.
Dolmundo, Boyet
Deo, Danny Boy
Depalobos, Rita
Deraya, Danny
Deraya, Reynaldo
Denquilo, Bernard
Denquilo, Lea C.
Desiderio, Felix Jr.
Desiderio, Gina
Desolok, Axel
Despebeladero, Meanne
Dospi, Lilibeth
Diamante Joel
Diamo, Sheila J.
Diaz, Maribel
Diaz, May
Diaz, Media
Diaz, Mely
Diaz, Mercedes
Diaz, Milty
Diaz, Mon & Cynthia
Diaz, Nadel Betchy
Dibdib, Krestyl Ciera
Dichupa, Elaine T.
Digno, Jocelyn
Dimalanta, Amelia
Dimalanta, M.Victoria
Dimalanta, Rafael
Dimaliwat, Malet
Dinoy, Florencio
Dionisio, Asuncion
Dionisio, Dino
Dionisio, Herminia
Dionisio, Mariel
Dionisio, Nieves
Dionisio, Tweenie
Dioso, Alex
Dipaz, Gabriel
Divinagracia, Patrick
Divino, Emilia G.
Dizon, Danilo
Dizon, Girlie
Dizon, Salud
Dizon, Tetchie
Doctolero, Alice
Doctor, Rosie
Doldolea, Nicker
Domalo, Ma. Victoria
Domingo, Avelino
Domingo, Medy
Domingo, Michael
Domingo, Wilma
Dominguez, Al
Dominguez, Cynthia
Dominguez, Mel F
Donal Estertita
Donato, Anna
Doplayna, Cheche B.
Draye, Sheila
Driza, Sonnyvic
Duclay, Avelino
Duenza Emmanuel
Dugang, Gyril
Duhan, Merva L.
Duhaylungsod, Joan
Dulaca, Rafael
Dulay, Mcor
Dumaup, Art
Dumaup, Diame Alba
Dumlao, Julie Ann
Dungganon, Louella
Duran, Fernando Jr.
Duran, Milagroz Z.
Duran, Minda M.
Durana, Mae Ann
Duterte, Riazza
Ebio, Lovely
Ebo, Donna
Echaverri, Gula
Edillo, Julieta
Edralin, Simonette
Egboy, Ryan
Ege, Romeo
Eleazar, Grace
Eliazo, Nellie
Elicaño, Antonio B.
Eligue, Iluna M.
Eliscupidas, Josephine
Elopre, Grace
Encabo, Noel
Endaya, Rossal
Enriquez, Concesa
Enriquez, Price
Ensano, Gie
Ensuya Rowena B
Ermita, Belle
Ermita, Estradella O
Escaler, Therese
Escano, Sherilyn
Escobar, Rosemarie
Escoreal, Nona
Escourloga, Lani U.
Escudero, Ana Regina
Escudero, Juan Miguel
Escudero, Manuel
Escudero, Milagros A.
Escudero, Pilar
Esguerra, Ema
Esikao, Mylene
Esparez, E. Jr
Espedido, Elsa G.
Espedido, Leonie
Espedido, Loli
Esperanza, Myla
Espeso, Merlin
Espina, Agustin
Espina, Gerry Sr.
Espina, Miguel
Espina, Vilma
Espinas, Susan B.
Espino, Jocelyn
Espino, Leslie
Espino, Marilyn
Espinosa, Ernie
Espinosa, Gian Dario
Espiritu, Gil
Espiritu, Marlene
Esquivel, Lina J.
Esquivel, Ma Angelina
Esteban, Edson
Estenor, Clarinda S.
Estoce, Romabeth
Estoesta, Estrella
Estomaguio, Chevy
Estores, Dr Celeste
Estrada, Angela
Estrada, Catherine
Estrada, Rodolfo
Estrella Patty
Eulomio, Felipa
Evangelista, Melinda
Evidente, Lorna F
Evidente, Reynaldo
Exconde, Apolinar
Exconde, Arsenio D.
Exconde, Gabriel T.
Exconde, Manstel
Exconde, Noemi
Exconde, Solronio
Fabella, Luzviminda
Fabla, Rozbie
Fabon, Lorydelle
Fabroa, Federico
Fabroa, Recy
Fadriquelan, Nora
Fajardo, Arlene
Fajardo, Dinno
Fajardo, Gemma H.
Fajardo, Lulu
Fajardo, Marilyn
Fajardo, Ryan
Fajura, Cristian
Falcon, Elena
Falgatiga, Sylvia
Fangon, Christine Joy
Fardon, Maryann
Farrales, Carlos
Farrales, Leana
Farrales, Maikee
Farrales, Vicky
Faura, Cristian
Favila, Annette
Feliciano, Gilbert
Felipe, Menchie
Felix, Alicia S.
Fenix, Nene
Fernandez, Billy
Fernandez, Clara
Fernandez, Fr Anton
Fernandez, M. Anthony
Fernandez, M Dulce
Fernandez, Marilou
Fernandez, Romina
Fernandez, Rose Cely
Fernando, Angela
Ferrida, Leo
Ferraren, Jennifer
Ferrer, Elena
Ferrer, Hedy A.
Ferrer, Hernani
Ferrer, Josie
Ferrer, Ma Isabel V.
Ferrer, Marlon
Ferrer, Melchor
Ferrer, Michelle
Ferrer, Shirley F.
Ferrer, Roy
Figdor, Alice
Figdor, Mercea
Figdor, Michael
Figueras, Fred
Figueras, Maria Lara
Figueras, Susan
Figueroa, Bianca
Figueroa, Lea
Fio, Leonila R.
Florencio, Alber
Florencio, Mary Queen
Florendo, Anna
Flores, Christie
Flores, Conchita E.
Flores, Crestyn
Flores, Cynthia Ma.
Flores, Donna Ma.
Flores, Jun
Flores, Manny
Flores, Roland
Floresca, Precy
Floresca, Stella
Florez, Jake
Florino, Ricky
Fonse, Rosella Faria
Fontanares, Raul
Fontecha, Eva
Fortaleza, Lyn
Francesco, Fe L.
Francisco, Angelica
Francisco, Chic R.
Francisco, Fe L.
Francisco, Milagros
Francisco, Pancho
Francisco, Vicente
Franco, Rachel V
Franes, J.
Frasco, Josephine F.
Fresnoza, Erica Ray
Frias, Cecilia
Frias, Ricky
Frias Violeta
Frogosa, Niptali RCT
Fronda, Rosal
Fuentez, Leticia
Fulgencio, Apolonio
Fulgueras, Lulu
Funscal, Naldy
Gobiana, Dennis SDB
Gabiola, Edna D.
Gabona, Domingo
Gabriel, Janice
Gadayan, Romulo A.
Gaddi, Tricia P.
Gajo, Gilbert
Gajo, Roger
Galang, Jermy
Galang, Leo
Galapin, Jovito
Galivo, Rizalina
Gallaga, Conchita L.
Gallaga, Eric
Gallardo, Clarita R.
Gallardo, Leslie
Gallardo, Maricel
Gallardo, Roberto
Gallon, Llezl
Galvo, Millet S.
Galvez, Erlie A.
Galvez, Lourdes V.
Galvez, Luis R.
Gamaya, Jay J.
Ganbuengco, Nila
Gantner, Aracell
Garcia, Abigail G.
Garcia, Baby
Garcia, Belinda
Garcia, Blanca
Garcia, Blessilda Anne
Garcia, Carl
Garcia, Fermin
Garcia, Francisco
Garcia, Ina
Garcia, Iñigo
Garcia, James
Garcia, John
Garcia, Juliana
Garcia, Manol
Garcia, Mark
Garcia, Maui
Garcia, Merlyn M.
Garcia, Milagros
Garcia, Olly
Garcia, Paulito
Garcia, Rafly
Garcia, Regina
Garcia, Rose Marie
Garcia, Rudy
Garcia, Sid
Garcia, Tracy
Garcia, Vercy
Garcia, Wilma
Garcia, Tesha
Gardo Salvacion
Gargantiel, Ma Dana
Garilio Lydia
Garra, Elena P.
Gatan, Norbert V.
Gatmaitan, Joel
Gatmaytan, Carmen
Gatus, Jenny
Gatusani, Erlinda
Gavino, Arlene
Gaya, Mayra
Gayao, Elon
Gayosa, Titas
Gearlan-Lopez, Luz
Goda, Jasmin
Ganato, Dr & Mrs. Papel
Genona, Agnes M.
Gerardino, Alma S.
Gerardino, Jou
Gerardino, Jun
Gerodias, Grace
Geronimo, Carmelita
Geronimo, Josoluis
Geronimo, Menchu
Geronimo, Ofelia
Geronimo, Victor M
Gerovia, Grace
Gervasio, Bing
Gervasio, Danilo
Gesmundo, E George
Gimenez, Antonio B.
Gimenez, Rosemarie
Gina, King
Gingo, Roma
Giray, Evelyn
Giron, Melinda
Glo, Annaliza
Goco, Jessie
Godala, Ernesto Jr.
Gojar, Myrna
Golamco, Isabel
Golez, Gloria "Baby"
Gomez, Aileen F.
Gomez, Aileen S.
Gomez, Santiago M.
Gomez, Victoria F
Gonzaga, Andy
Gonzaga, Christine
Gonzaga, Janet
Gonzaga, Jannelle Y.
Gonzaga, Jonathan
Gonzaga, Jun
Gonzaga, Luis
Gonzaga, Mia L.
Gonzales, Alice
Gonzales, Anton
Gonzales, Connie Y.
Gonzales, Dr Taddy B.
Gonzales, Rez
Gonzales, Romeo
Gonzales, Rosemarie
Gonzalez, Auring
Gonzalez, Agnes
Gonzalez, Annette
Gonzalez, Nella
Gopez, Sal
Goralos, R. Christopher
Gorda, Alejandro C.
Gorpido, Edna D
Got, Alexandra P.
Gotis, Rommel
Grajo, Mark Anthony
Gran, Joel
Granada, Gina
Gregorio, Jocelyn
Gregorio, Manquel
Gregorio, Narcisa C.
Gremarin, Milo
Grimaldo, Anabelle
Guadalupe, Ramona
Gualvez, Michael
Guann, Agnes
Guavos, Rolex
Guerrero, Andrew B.
Guerrero, Luigi B.
Guerrero, Rosanne B.
Guerrero, Rosette B
Guevara, Amelita
Guevara, Elmer
Guevara, Isabel F.
Guevarra, Baby
Guevarra, Hazel P.
Guevarra, Manuel
Guevarra, Robert
Guldoya, Angie
Gujoran, O.
Gullatco, Stella I.
Gullen, Archie
Guillermo, Ma. Zita P.
Gumangan, Arlene
Gumban, Georgia
Gumban, Monique
Gunio, Diomedes
Gutierrez, Alice
Gutierrez, Antonio M.
Gutierrez, Marilou L.
Gutierrez, Marlyn
Gutierrez, Remy
Guzman, Josephine
Guzman, Palma B.
Guzman, Thelma B.
Hamto, Dennis
Harel, Nancy L.
Havap, Janet P
Hechanova Monina
Henson, Col(ret) Floro
Henson, Ma. Victoria
Henson, Maria Paz
Henson, Rhea
Henson, Tito
Hermano, Estela M.
Hernaez, Lolita
Hernaez, Rafael
Hernandez, Dante
Hernandez, Delia
Hernandez, Edwin
Hernandez, Lulu P.
Hernandez, M Antonette
Herrera, Lino
Hidalgo, Carmina B.
Hilado, Carmencita
Hilado, Ma. Luisa V
Hilado, Roberto L
Hilario, Myra
Hizon, Lorna
Holganza Rene
Holmina, Mario OSJ
Holton, Loren Perlas
Hong, Ma Teresa D
Honorio, Jose Victor
Honorio, Ma Socorro
Hortillosa, Nenita
Hui, Mona Lyn B.
Ibarra, Cristina G
Ibarra, Elsa
Ibarra, Israel
Ibalan, Zacaria B.
Ibrao, Luisa
Ignacio, Delma Q.
Ignacio, Gene M.
Ignacio, Marie Joseph
Ilogan, Marylin
Ilogan, Marylin
Ilagan, Patricia S.
Ilusorio, Erlinda K.
Ilusorio, Honi Kalaw
Ilusorio, Kelly
Imalay, Tess
Indac, Roquito
Ingco, Marissa
Inocencio, Noni O.
Insigne, Jane
Intenado, Emily
Isaac, Angela
Isaac, Mikel
Isip, Cami
Isip, Romi
Isleta, Irene
Izabayan, Rolando
Jabnan, Ma Milagros
Jabonilla, Emma
Jacinto, Angelina
Jacinto, Frannie
Jacob, Dante
Jacolbia, Noz
Jaguran, Leslie
Jalandoni, Lita
Jalmasco, Julieta
Jamen, Josie
Jao, Richard L.
Jara, Artemio
Jara, Jerry
Jaramillo, Andrei
Jasarino, Marisel
Javellana, Bernie
Javellana, Ma. Paz J.
Javellana, Ma Vic
Javelona, Josephine
Javelosa, Glorietta E.
Javier, Camille Marg
Javier, Celia U.
Javier, Cybele Aimee
Javier, Cynthia
Javier, Marcelo Jr
Javier, Marco Miguel
Jaymalin, Andrelita
Jebulan, Ma. Luisa
Jerzon, Rogelio
Jesena, Julius
Jimenez, Leonila
Jimenez, Margarita
Jose, Grace
Jose, Rosie T.
Jose, Wong
Jota, Emma
Jolojot, Lloh
Juanico, Bing
Jubilo, Jovencio
Juco, Evangeline
Juelo, Lalaine
Juliano, Aurora
Juliano, Dong
Juliano, Lourdes P
Julogan, Matet Jocel
Junio, Laida
Junio, Melanie
Jurilla, Linda
Jurson, Emma L.
Just, Zaida
Justimbasto, Esmeralda
Justimbasto, Rodel
Justo, Nenita
Juvinal, Maryann
Katow, Rebecca T.
Kanapi-Ng, Girlie
Karabayas, Lucy
Kathrein, Delia I
Katigbak, Alice
Kho, Marvin
Kilat, Iono Jane L.
Kilayko, April G.
Kilayko, Evelyn
Kilayko, Juan L.
Kilayko, Mary Clarisse
Kimsale, Cecilia
Labanza, Santo
Labnao, Nelia
Labog, Anna Cristina
Labog, Camila Priscila
Labog, Ma Catrina P.
Labog, Ma. Cristina P.
Labog, N. Pocholo
Labrador, Alcer
Labrador, Alex
Labrador, Lolita
Lacap, Noemi
Lacon, Carlito
Lacon, Nita
Lacson, Dolly
Lacson, Milagros
Lacson, Rei
Lacson Susan S.
Lacuesta, Norby
Lagdameo, Linda
Lagdameo, Tonet
Lagman, Leticia
Lagro, Rex
Laguda, Alda
Lagza, Aurelia C.
Lambino, Francisco
Langrio, Analyn
LaO, Jose
Lapitan, Art
Lapitan, Emelie
Lapiz, Marcel A.
Laquindanum, Elsa
Lara, Eugene
Lara, Mica
Laran, Mario
Laroza, Orly L.
Lasarca, Deris
Lasola, Maribel
Latoy, Larry P.
Latoza, Elna V.
Laurel, Mimi
Lausa, Ritchel
Lawas, Manchu
Laycon, Perry
Layog, Verna
Lazo, Linda
Lazona, Rodrigo
Ledesma, Christina
Ledesma, Haydee
Ledesma, Teresa
Leo, Manuel Jr
Lee, Melanie
Lee, Milagros
Legano, Delia
Legaspi, Mia
Lemsic, Ma Edrelin
Lenes, Theresa
Leon, Cherlita T
Leong, Zenaida
Leonor, Dr Rowena
Leoynko, Tess
Lepenta, Ching
Lenos, Lelia
Leston, Cyril
Lewis, Loida N
Leyretana, Minerva B.
Leyson, Renante
Lianko, Judy B.
Lianza, Francisco G.
Lienza, Lito
Liao, Madeline
Librado, Donor
Librandia, Benilda
Licarte, Joseph
Licliean, Jerome
Licuanan, Eddie
Ligbayo, Fe L
Lim, Abigail
Lim, Albert R.T. Jr.
Lim, Cara
Lim, Celeste P.
Lim, Celine
Lim, Cesar
Lim, Cresenta
Lim, Eugene Eric C.
Lim, Jerry
Lim, Marco
Lim, Marcel B.
Lim, Marie
Lim, Mila
Limcangco, Marjorie
Limgna, Annie
Limlingan, Marita
Limlingan, Rosa C.
Linabog, Liberato
Linacero, Elsa
Linosa, Orly
Litton, Ana
Lizada, Robert
Lizares, Nanette
Lizares, Rita Mar
Llenos, Theresa
Llopez, Baby Paredes
Llopez, Junjun
Loanzon, Ma. Theresa
Loanzon, Mico
Lobenza, Lina S.
Locsin, Angela
Locsin, Sofia
Locsing, Annabel B.
Locsio, Chary F
Lon, Erlinda R
Lontoc, Marivi L
Lonzaga, Roberto
Lonzaga, Sabina
Looyuko, Tess
Lopa, Ma. Teresa
Lopez Gonzalez
Lopez, Aloma
Lopez, Ana
Lopez, Carmina M.A.
Lopez, Cherry
Lopez, Edna
Lopez, Estela J
Lopez, Fe
Lopez, Hidelisa Renee
Lopez, Johnny
Lopez, Jordan T.
Lopez, Jose Antonio
Lopez, Luz Gaorlan
Lopez, Maida M.
Lopez, Marcel
Lopez, Marcel C.
Lopez, Mario del Mar
Lopez, Michael Francis
Lopez, Mike
Lopez, Ofelia "Ope"
Lopez, Rio
Lopez, Rico
Lopez, Rose Marie R.
Lopez, Rosemarie
Lopez, Roy B
Lopez, Sonia R.
Lopez, Teofila
Lopez, Teresa Z.
Lopez, Vivian A
Lorenzo, Amy
Lorenzo, Luigi
Lorenzo, Bhong
Loza, Alan
Loza, Alex
Loza, Daisy
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Loza, Virginia
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Lozano, Cio
Lozano, Manny
Lozano, Rammy
Lozano, Vince
Lubrico, Nonallyn
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Lucas, Eufracio
Lucena, Mary Jane
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Lucilo, Melanie
Luis, Criselda
Lumaban, Girlie
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Lumawag, Dolores
Luna, Javilyn
Lunas, Nita V.
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Mabalay, Edel
Mabansag, Leo
Mabasa, Chingbee
Mabeza, Josephine O.
Mabulay, Jeannie
Macalanda, Racquel
Macandog, Arturo
Macandog, Christine
Macandog, Pancho
Macapagal, Adina
Macapagal, Jose R.
Macapagal, M Therese
Macapagal, Martter
Macaraeg, Richard
Macarilay, Emerson
Macasaet, Dominga
Macasieb, Amy
Macatangay, Ignacio
Macatangay, Macky
Macavinta, Jean
Maceda, Alicia P.
Maceda, Francis
Macinas, Preciosa
Mackay, Leonila
Macon, Stella
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Macuha, Anna
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Madrigal, V.
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Magadia, Leonardo
Magat, Rose Michelle
Magat, Rosio
Magdangal, Jet
Maglasang, Judith
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Magnaye, Milagros
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Malcdem, Teofilo
Malle, Larry
Mallo, Sonny
Mallo, Rose Ann
Malong, Cynthia
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Mamanl, Corazon
Mamauag, Maryjan
Manabat, Enriqueta
Manabat, Gina V.
Manabat, Roberto G.
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Manahan, Belinda
Manalo, Dexter
Manalo, Josefina L.
Manalo, Lizzete
Manason, Jacqueline
Mancao, Delia
Mandane, Rodenia
Mandawe, Alda
Manding, Danna
Manese, Brenda
Mangahas, Roslyn
Manguerra, Jose Ma.
Manguerra, Tanya A.
Manguiat, Clarita
Manguiat, Fina
Manguiat, Odessa
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Manuilt, Rey
Manligues, Asuncion
Manois, Erlinda
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Mañosa, Angelo S.
Mañosa, Denise S.
Mañosa, Francisco D.
Mañosa, Francisco T.
Mañosa, Margon
Mañosa, Sabina D.
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Manotok, Bogie
Manotok, Carlo
Manotok, Cricket
Manotok, Cynthia S.
Manotok, Luigi
Mantaring, Jogy
Mantaring, Lorie
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Manuel, Leonora A
Manuel, Nathalie
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Manzano, Kolyn
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Maramba, Peachie
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Marantal, Romil
Maraviles, Cristina T.
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Marcelino, Chito P.
Marcelo, Sheila
Marfori, Chinky
Margelli, Carmen D.
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Mariano, Reuel
Marimon, Hicel R.
Mantana, Bong
Maro, Julai
Marone, Recto
Marquez, Belle F.
Marquez, Crisanto
Marquez, Irene
Marquez, Lolita M.
Marquez, Ramedios
Marquez, Susan
Marquez, Trinidad A.
Marquez, Vanessa
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Martinez, Anne D.
Martinez, Apolonia
Martinez, Francisco
Martinez, Jusol
Martinez, Lourdes
Martinez, Lutgarda
Martinez, Mancarr T.
Martinez, Maryjo
Martinez, Rowena A.
Martinez, Rowena P
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Masangkay, Jayson
Mascardo, Opel
Masirag, Ricky
Mateo, Charito
Mathay Samantha
Matula, Carlos Jr
Matula, Cnclor Eddie
Matula, Ignatius M.
Matula, Melba Cubol
Matula, Sonny
Matula, Theresa Isabel
Matulac, George
Mauricio, Tess
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Mauyao, Jhon
Mauyao, Precy
Mayo, Josephine P.
Mayo, Trus
McKenzie, Mercedes
McLaughlin, Luisa F
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Medenilla, Vivian
Medrano, Ronald OSJ
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Meja, Margarita
Meja, Xenelyn
Melay, Grace L
Mencias, Emma A.
Mencias, Robert
Mendez, Thelma D.
Mendezona, Pilar
Mendiola, Solomon P.
Mendoza, Antonio P.
Mendoza, Dory
Mendoza, Erlita
Mendoza, Gemma
Mendoza, Imelda S.
Mendoza, L.P
Mendoza, M Socorro
Mendoza, Manny
Mendoza, Melody
Mendoza, Rolando
Mercado, Leonardo SVD
Mercado, Norma
Morciales, Rudy
Morciales, Sylvia
Meregeltano, Celia
Mesla, Conching
Micas, Mercy
Miguel, Agnes
Miguela, Gladys A.
Mijares, Cristina
Mijares, Ed
Milagroso, Rene
Milares, Nenita C.
Miñan, Quinna G.
Millares, Preciosa
Miñano, Francisco
Miñano, Maricar A.
Miñano, Maricris
Minena, Eleuteria
Miranda, Ellen
Mirarea, Alvin
Mirasol, Fernando
Molina, Josie
Molina, Lorna
Mon, Louis
Moneda, Leo
Moneda, Lovely
Montano, Andrea C.
Montano, Charmaine
Montecillo, Maling
Montejo, Teresita
Montelibano, Maxine
Montemayor, Ferdinand
Montemayor, Maristela
Montemayor, Rowena
Montenegro, Charito
Montenegro, Rose
Montes, Belma
Montesa, M. Lourdes
Monteza, Minam
Montilla, Lilia T.
Montilla, Lila
Montillano, Aileen
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Morales, Imelda
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Moran, Connie V.
Moreno, Ana Martha
Moreno, Antonio
Moreno, Ariane
Moreno, Jose Luis
Moreno, Mary Rose
Moreno, Raymond J.
Moreno, Rufina
Moreno, Tin
Morente, Nenita
Morcca, Filomena L.
Moro, Daisy
Moro, Luis "Kting"
Mosquera, Rose Jane
Mostajo, Louis
Moulic, Fernando
Mugnay, Milagros R.
Munos, Lisa
Muñoz, Beth
Muñoz, Felisa de Leon
Muñoz, Glenda R.
Muñoz, Jerome
Muri, Sarah
Muyot, Florencio
Muyot, Nolie
Naboa, Donabella
Namanes, Allyn
Nanagas, Sheila Marie
Nano, Hildegarda
Nano, Marlene Joy
Napoles, Felipe
Narciso, Amancio
Narciso, Analisa
Narciso, Aurora R.
Narciso, Beng
Narciso, Elfren
Narciso, Raul
Narra, Leonila
Nartea, Arnolo
Narvante, Cesar
Navarro, Danilo
Navarro, Edun
Navarro, Maan
Navarro, Melanie
Navarroza, Edita C.
Nazareno, Christopher
Nebres, Revelyn
Nebrida, Baby
Nebrida, Dr. Lia
Nebrida, Joey
Nebrida, M. Luisa F.
Nebrida, Teresita
Nebrida, Toto
Nelly, Grace
Neponte, Jane
Ner, Ursula P.
Nerona, Mercy
Nessia, Delia
Nessia, Telma
Netto, Margarita Silva
Nicandro, Mardes
Nicolas, Francis
Nicor, Benjamin
Nismal, Ronnie
Nitura, Zenaida
Niufortaliza, Francis
Nocum, Mariano
Nogueras, Yolly
Nolasco, Drans
Nolasco, Josefina X.
Nolasco, Ramon
Nolasco, Rica
Nolido, Helen
Nonato, Chris
Nones, Evangeline
Nono, Meralie B.
Noriega, Roger
Norton, Cynthia Carlon
Notono, Walter
Novelero, Sheila P.
Nunez, Eric L.
Nuyda, Allen Kenneth
Nuyda, Sori Luz U
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Obsob, Edwin
Obtinalla, Rosal
Ocampo, Gloria E.
Ocampo, Nancy
Ochoa, Tils
Ocsan, Ricardo
Odiohan, Victor C.
Ogardo, Dimo
Ogaro, Edwin
Oh, Vicky Ong
Olaiver, Bro. Edmar OSJ
Olalla, Noel
Olarte, Aldred J.
Olaya, Krizia Apostol
Olegario, Vining
Olevas, Zenaida V.
Olivares, Bernard
Oliver, Corazon M.
Oliveros, Cora
Oliveros, Danny M
Oliveros, Edith
Oliveros, Sheryll V.
Omagap, Jocelyn
Ombao, Aileen
Ong, Dr Pete
Ong, Imee M
Ong, Mary
Ongsioko, Nori V.
Opsimar, Francisca
Oquendo, Rome
Oracion, Antoniata
Orale, Cecilia
Orbeta, Olo
Orbin, Alfonso
Orbin, Amy H
Orbin, Erica
Orbin, Ma Theresa
Orbin, Rick
Ordoñez, David John
Ordoñez, Encar B
Ordonez, Minda B.
Orendain, Joan
Orendain, Lily M.
Orgas, Leonora
Orleans, Edgar S.
Oro, Regina
Oros, Jodelisa
Ortega, Divine
Ortega, Ruby Lynn
Ortigas, Susana Bayot
Ortil, Willy
Ortilla, Ane
Ortilla, Ariel
Ortilla, Mariel
Ortilla, Miggy
Ortiz, Doris T.
Ortiz, Eurika
Ortiz, Justo
Osmeña, Oying
Ostria, Carlito
Ou, Kristina N.K.
Pabroa, Marilyn
Pabustan, Evelyn
Paccunauayan, Belen
Paciente, Jacquelyne
Pacibar, Catalino M.
Pacomios, Manloss
Pacres, Ana Triel
Pacres, Anabelle
Pacres, Rusiana
Padilla, Gina
Padrilan, Fe
Padrono, Salvador P.
Padua, Lannelyn
Padullon, Emilio
Pagulayan, Abigail
Page, Penn Landis
Pages, Anton
Pages, Bea
Pages, Deena
Pages, Ezra
Pages, Giandino
Pages, Jefren
Pages, Krista
Pagtakhan, Erline
Paglalunan, Evelyn
Paglalunan, Gloria
Pagul, Javell
Pahayahay, Rosila
Palacol, Janice
Palador, Arlene
Palarog, Leticia
Palis, Dr Ma Elena
Pallado, Janico
Palma, Annie M.
Palma, Cristina
Palma, Feria
Palma, Garcia
Palmaera, Gigi
Palma, Ponciano OSJ
Palou, Lea
Palou, Lea
Palou, Lea de Leon
Pamintuan, Editha
Pamintuan, Linda B.
Pamintuan, Mario
Pangilinan, Ferdinand
Panicucci, Trinidad
Panis, Aurora L.
Panis, Buen
Panlilio, Loleng
Panlilio, Pablo
Panlilio, Sabrina B.
Panuncialman, Seryl
Paraiso, Elma
Paraiso, Malou
Parangunan, Teresa
Parsaso, Haney
Parungao, Fred
Parungao, Mely
Pasano, Jayson S.
Pascacio, Reynaldo
Pascual, Antonio
Pascual, Antonio K.
Pascual, Benny
Pascual, Nini
Pascual, Silver
Pascual, Sylvia
Pasia, Rosalie
Pason, Antonina U
Pastor, Celine B
Patalinghug, Emay
Patalinghug, Joe
Pataneg, Leticia S.
Paterno, Amelita
Paterno, Erlinda S.
Paterno, Esperanza
Paterno, M. Teresa
Paterno, Peter F B.
Pavericio, Rosemarie
Paz, Reuben R.
Pedrosa, Carlos A.
Pedrosa, Carlos B.
Pedrosa, Maria B.
Pedrosa, Marie
Pedrosa, Patricia G.
Pedroso, Maribeth
Peñanco, Jay
Pena, Fernando
Pena, Marie Paz
Peneda, Fr Ranelle
Pentecostes, Lisa
Peralta, Concepcion
Perandos, Felix
Peraren, Rowena A.
Perdices
Pereta, Ellen
Perez, Anne A.
Perez, Consuela
Perez, Cynthia
Perez, Dolly
Perez, Limuel
Perez, Ma Regina
Perez, Mantes E.
Perez, Melissa
Pestaño, Edgardo
Peterson, Christina
Pfleider Frederick
Pfleider, Mildred A.
Picones, Corazon
Pido, Suzette
Pigar, Mary Anne
Pilotos, Maria Cecilia
Pilpa, Tess
Pinoda, Annette S.
Pineda, Beth
Pineda, Ivan
Pineda, Ma Isabelle
Pinili, Maria Kenneth
Pinlac, Elizabeth
Ploquinto, Kathryn
Pizano, Olive V
Plan, Monina
Planas, Charito
Planas Simplicia
Plandes, Emelyn
Platon, Eric J
Plaza, Ciencia
Plaza, Sonson
Po, Eric Alvin
Po, Fely R.
Policarpio, Mary Anne
Polvonza, Rosalyn
Ponio, Emerlinda
Ponteras, Rhea
Pontilar, Erlinda
Poon, Randy
Porta, Edward
Porto, Teresita
Posia, Joel
Posoga, Jun
Postrero, Bons
Potencia, Karen
Prado, Arquel
Prado, Maybloom
Prado, Susan Z.
Preitsora, Ferlie
Puno, Loretto B.
Puno, Pilar
Puno, Willy
Pura, Jim G.
Que, Jun
Quenza, P Immanuel
Quevedo, Amparo
Quevedo, Carla
Quevedo, Concepcion
Quiachon, Hector
Quiambao, Judith
Quiamco, Lea
Quiamco, Marylene
Quiaño, Josefito
Quianzon, Sheila
Quiapo, Rey Anthony
Quiazon, Jose
Quiazon, Nonet
Quibol, Raulito D.
Quijano, Joe A
Quijano, Tacing
Quijano, Vening Roxas
Quilatan, Marilyn
Quimlo, Minda
Quimson, Bettina
Quinlog, Gemma
Quinones, Adoracion
Quinones, Anamarie
Quinones, Silveno
Quintos, Josephine I.
Quiogue, Manuel
Quiogue, Nona
Quiros, Quiros
Quito, Beverlyn
Quitong, Joseph
Quitong, Josephine
Racelis, Mel
Radores, Amiy Mae
Rafiq, Mariam
Ramirez, Cheryl
Ramirez, Helen
Ramirez, Julieta
Ramirez, Vic
Ramos, Chrerry
Ramos, Christine
Ramos, Linda
Ramos, Manlos O.
Ramos, Renato
Ramos, Ronald
Ramos, Rose F.
Ramos, Sara
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Rapadas, Mario J
Rapadas, Mary
Raquel, Eleanor
Ravelo, Elizabeth
Raymundo, Janice
Raymundo, Nita
Rayos del Sol, Alice
Razon, Jose
Rea, Graciela R.
Reambillo, Marlen
Rebesinchio, Romeo
Rebucas, Angie
Recto, Lourdes S
Red, Christine Lovely
Red Dawn Jean
Regero, Irma
Regonda, Merkla M.
Rel Blet
Relampagos, Erika
Relampagos, Jenny
Relampagos, Manuel
Relente, Carmelita R
Relova, Lonng
Remolacio, Ruichel
Responso, Clarita
Restua, Mia
Raverente, Tita P.
Rey, Enrique
Reyes, Angelita
Reyes, Ben
Reyes, Chuchi
Reyes, Culbert
Reyes, Deborah Anne
Reyes, Edwina S.
Reyes, Emily S.
Reyes, Gilbert
Reyes, Ma. Gracia C
Reyes, Oscar E.
Reyes, Ray
Reyes, Raymond
Reyes, Rosalina M.
Reyes, Rosario E.
Reyes, Rubertino
Reyes, Susana
Reyes, Sylvia
Reyes, Testar
Reyes, Tessie P.
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Ricaforte, Antonio D.
Ricardo, Kevin
Ricarte, Gemma
Richards, Geraldine
Rillorta, Honofre
Rio, Ferdinandus SDB
Rios, Josefina C.
Rivas, Evelyn
Rivera, Cynthia
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Rivera, Feliza H.
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Rivera, Ma Antonette
Rivera, Mario Jacinto
Rivera, Remedios A.
Rivera, Senen
Rivera, Sheryl
Rivera, Zenaida B.
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Rodriguez, Erlinda
Rodriguez, Erlinda
Rodriguez, Jole
Rodriguez, Lole
Rodriguez, Offie
Rodriguez, Rey
Roguel, Ray Ann
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Rom, Nicoly
Roma, Sonny
Romabiles, Myrna L.
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Rosario, Rose
Rosello, Carmen
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Rulo, Roger
Ruiz, Victoria
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Sabas, Bernardita
Sabillo, Ferdie
Sabino, Enca
Sabino, Meagan
Sabino, Rico
Sabino, Joshua
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Sabino, Nicolo
Sabiona, Jane Mae
Sablay, Bort
Sabuco, Shyrlyn
Saco, Merlie
Sajonas, Richard
Salagam, Roselyn
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Salde, Jennifer C.
Salimbot, Sherwin
Salomon, Benjamin
Salomon, Carmen
Salomon, Cristina
Salomon, Erin
Salomon, Jen-jen
Salomon, Jenny
Salomon, Jessica
Salomon, Jonathan
Salomon, Leony
Salomon, Michael
Salomon, Paul Nelson
Salomon, Renato
Salumbide, Gina
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Salvacion, Maila D.
Salvador, Camelita
Salvador, Joan G.
Salvador, Juanita
Salvanora Noel
Salvanerra, Malvin
Salvosa Estor V.
Sam, Ryan
Samaniego Ricardo
Samar, Ramil
Samera, Vicky
Samia, Armando Q.
Samillano, Gerry B.
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Samson, Camille
Samson, Joselit G
Samson, Lolita R.
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Sanchez, Noel S
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Sanchez, Teofilo
Sanchez, Victoria
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Sandoval, Marcia E.
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Santiago, Lolita
Santiago, Rebecca
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Santos Ty, Florentino
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Sapico, Maylone
Sapiala Ben
Sapiola, Nining
Saquilayan, L.A.
Sarabia, Corito
Sardea, Maricel C.
Sarino Judy
Sarmiento, Marciano
Sasa, Imelda
Sataraspon, Nelson
Satumbre, Malia
Satin, Jenny
Saul, Fritzie
Seasol, Ancieta
Sebetoro, Noel
Segovia, Genia
Segovia, Mardy
Segovia, Nanette B.
Segovia, Rodelyn
Segovia, Rowena
Seguerra, Candad
Segura, Editha
Sembrano, Josefina
Serrano, Joni Ma. C
Serrano, Venso
Serrano, Vicky
Servando, Ofelia
Server, Chequi
Servida, Trixie
Sevidal, Lumingning
Sevilla, Amelia A.
Sevilla, Perla
Siasico, Genera T.
Siasico, Jane
Sico, Ana
Siegel, Patricia Perlas
Silangcruz, Nenita
Silos Santos, Romeo
Silva, Maricar
Silva, Maricris
Silva, Norman
Silva, Ruby
Silva, Victoria
Silverio, Antonina
Silverio, Antonita
Silverio, Edward
Silverio, Rene
Silvestre, Virginia
Silvila, Jennylyn
Simbahan, Rowena
Simborio, Alda
Simbulan, Kim SDB
Simgian, Cora
Simpal, Josiedyne
Singian, Pandy
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Solomon, Mary Johan
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Somo, Jane
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Soria, Bishop Elias T.
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Soriano, Nancy
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Soriano, Raquel S.
Soriano, Stephanie
Sotto, Paz
Sr Gertrude
Sto Domingo, Brautio
Sto Domingo, Carmen
Suarez, Gina
Suarez, Maricel
Suarez, Melanie A.
Suba, Remdios
Subida, Fely
Subido, Mylene C.
Sugabo, Felix
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Sumbingco, Patricia
Sumbingco, Tony
Sumndad, Mila Yap
Sunglao, Lolita T.
Suñiga, Raquel
Suntay, Meding
Supe, Angela
Suna, Chit
Suzara, Bingay
Suzara, Christopher
Suzara, Michael
Suzara, Sonia R
Sy, Louelle
Tabares, Lady Grace
Tabares, Merilyn
Tabin, Ben
Tabin, Sophie M
Tablante, Christina
Tabor, Nino
Tabora, Micaela Ann
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Tamingo, Ryan
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Tan, Dette A.
Tan, Eden
Tan, Gilbert R.
Tan, Marlu Capuyoc
Tan, Pablito M. Jr
Tan, Triso
Tanada, Marcy
Tandoc, Violeta
Tanedo, Don
Tanedo, Teresita B.
Tangangco, Laura B
Tangco, Malu
Tangloo, Nina
Taningco, Ryan
Tanyanco, Luisa A.
Tanjuatco, Margarita
Tanjuatco, Michelle
Tanjuatco, Ruby
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Teehankee, Pilar
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Tejano, Ruben
Tejeros, Cherry
Tena, Erwin
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Teng, Edward
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Tuason, Aisa
Tuason, Betsy
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Tuason, Manlu P
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Tugday, Cesar L.
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Tuliswan, Luciano
Tulino, Editha C
Tumaliwan, Proceso Jr
Tumampos, Hoida
Tumanan, Aurea
Tumanan, Francis
Tumaneng, Odesa
Tumulak, Odeza,
Tusla, Myrna C.
Ty, Susan
Ual, January
Ugalde, Bernadette
Umadhay, Vergie
Umali, Evelyn
Umali, Ruben
Umali-Soliman, Juris
Unlaran, Elvira
Urbano, Richard
Urbina, Norma
Urquiaga, Francisco
Urquiaga, Grace
Ululo, Chito
Ululo, Corazon
Ululo, Elisa
Ululo, Manuel
Utzurrum, Rosario
Uy, Dominador
Uy, Dominador
Uy, Elmo
Uy, Rowena Chio
Uychiat, Jocelyn
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Valencia, Roselle
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Valerio, Jun B.
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Valesa, Jane
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Velasquez, Jonathan
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Velez, Vivian P.
Vellarde, Elsa C.
Veloso, Mike
Veloso, Sylvia S.
Veluz, Elvie
Venegas, Cecilia
Ventura, Edwin
Vera, Karen
Vera, Patricio J
Vera, Peggy
Verdadero, Richie
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Vergie, Umandman
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Villahermosa, Jesus
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Villanueva, Bernardita
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Villapando, Olella C.
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Zamora, Joseph
Zamora, Ma Manuela
Zamora, Ma Melissa
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Zamora, Wopsy
Zamuco, Darie
Zananas, Conrad
Zarate, Leonardo
Zarate, Melanio T
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Zubiri, Ma. Asuncion
Zulueta, Cristina
Zulueta, Mary
Zuñiga, Angelina
Zuñiga, Ellen

Due to the overwhelming support and response to our message (printed 08-Mar-06), this reprint lists only names (no signature images) in order to accommodate the many names. **Email: mahalko_bayanko@yahoo.com**

We apologize to those whose names were not listed or may have been misspelled due to glitches in the fax transmissions.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Moment of truth: Erap in the dock

From page A1

statement on this page.)

The charges and his detention have created a "very depressing life," Estrada said, adding that acquittal would correct all the wrongs heaped upon him. "This is a mistake and this should be corrected," he said.

Estrada, 68, said he would wear a native "barong" shirt and speak in Tagalog when he testifies to symbolize his love for the country he once promised to deliver from crushing poverty.

'No histrionics'

"There will be no statements, he'll just answer questions propounded by his counsel," said lawyer Raymond Fortun. "There will be no histrionics tomorrow."

Fortun yesterday told foreign correspondents that the defense would rest its case after Estrada's testimony. It is likely that Estrada will make several appearances at the Sandiganbayan. Hearings are held only once a week.

The court is expected to issue a verdict in September or October, Fortun said.

Fortun is just one in a battery of top caliber lawyers defending Estrada. It includes former Sen. Rene Saguisag, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and former Manila Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano.

Estrada will be the 79th defense witness in his trial on the capital charge of plunder that robbed him of power and consigned him to detention in his sprawling rest house in Tanay.

Prosecutors say the former President committed plunder—a nonbailable offense punishable by a maximum penalty of death by lethal injection—by amassing about P4 billion ($77 million) in illegal gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and commissions stashed away in secret bank accounts.

Estrada also faces a minor charge of perjury for allegedly underreporting his assets in 1999.

Coached on testimony

Today's hearing is historic, according to Flaminiano. This will be the first time that Estrada will tell his side of the story. He said Estrada had reviewed all the evidence against him. The legal defense made Estrada recall all crucial events cited by the prosecution.

"We asked him about the testimony of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and others," said Flaminiano, who will conduct Estrada's direct examination. "We did not have a problem."

He said that part of Estrada's preparation was a regimen of a good diet, light exercises and sufficient hours of sleep.

Estrada's court appearance was initially set for March 15, but it was rescheduled to accommodate the defense request for more preparation time.

Flaminiano said Estrada's testimony would deal with his alleged secret bank accounts, the tobacco excise tax scam, claims of illegal gambling payoffs and his alleged intervention in the stock market to favor a crony, Dante Tan.

The final chapter

Estrada was forced to step down amid massive anticorruption protests in January 2001 that were partly led by then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who completed the remainder of Estrada's six-year term and then won the 2004 election, which is now clouded by suspicions of fraud.

Estrada, a college dropout, parlayed his massive movie popularity—he won the local version of the Oscars five times—into a springboard to the presidency. But even some of his followers say he squandered his fame and power by bringing his carefree lifestyle into office.

Estrada has acknowledged his foibles but denied any wrongdoing.

Malacañang is hopeful that Estrada's personal defense will be the last part in the long-running political saga between the administration and the former leader's supporters.

"I think this will be the final chapter because now we can hear the former President defend himself and his defense team will rest its case after this," said Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor in an interview.

Defensor said Malacañang supported the court's decision to turn down Estrada's request for a live broadcast of his testimony. "It's just fair that he does not get TV coverage because the prosecution also did not get to argue its case before a broader TV audience," Defensor said.

If the Sandiganbayan decided to either acquit or convict the former President on the charges against him, it was important that the public accept this judgment, Defensor said.

1,000 riot police mobilized

About 1,000 riot police have been mobilized to secure the Sandiganbayan amid a planned protest by thousands of Estrada's impoverished followers, reflecting the continuing government concern over the trial's politically charged nature.

Director Vidal Querol, Metro Manila police chief, said officials of St. Peter's Church near the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City had expressed concern that Estrada's followers would turn the place into a political arena.

"If there would be a Mass and vigil, they don't want them mixed with political speeches inside the church," said Querol.

Permit to rally

Pro-Estrada groups had secured a rally permit for Commonwealth Avenue at the Sandiganbayan site from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. today. They also got permission to hold a vigil from 6 p.m. to midnight yesterday, Querol said.

Security will be tight in and out of the courtroom, said Querol.

"We had the opportunity to talk with a few justices of the Sandiganbayan. We expressed our assurance that the former President will be able to testify during his trial peacefully and we publicly ask his supporters and allies and detractors not to disrupt the trial proceedings even outside the Sandiganbayan," he said.

"All things have been covered, including coordination with the personal doctor of the ex-President, in case of a medical emergency."

A movie starring both FPJ and Erap kept their supporters awake for last night's vigil on the eve of Estrada's appearance before the Sandiganbayan.

The movie, "Ang Agila at ang Araw" was shown from an overhead projector on a huge canvas in front of the St. Peter's Parish where less than 100 people converged to show support for the deposed President.

"We want to keep Erap's supporters awake during the vigil," said Dennis Ebona, national vice chair for Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice.

Present during the vigil were Linggoy Alcuaz, secretary general of FPJ Volunteers' Brigade, and Rez Cortez of the National Council for Concerned Volunteers, another FPJ-affiliated group.

Members of the People's Movement Against Poverty and the Muslim group Assalam, and other groups identified with Estrada were present.

The groups lit candles in front of the church, where they said they would stay until midnight.

Police said they were closely watching the group but had no plan to disperse them unless the group tried to move away from the church and march toward the Sandiganbayan. ***With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Luige A. del Puerto, DJ Yap, AP, Reuters***

IN THE KNOW

The issues against Estrada

1. Secret bank accounts

To hide his alleged illegally acquired wealth, Estrada was said to have maintained secret bank accounts, including one in the Equitable-PCI Bank where he had over P3.2 billion under the name Jose Velarde. This was ordered frozen in August 2002 by the Sandiganbayan. Five other banks subsequently turned over to the Ombudsman statements of Estrada's accounts, as well as of his two mistresses—Guia Gomez and Laarni Enriquez.

2. Excise tax scam

In 1998, Estrada allegedly pocketed the P130 million excise tax share of Ilocos Sur allocated under RA 7171 (An Act to Promote the Development of Farmers in the Virginia Tobacco-Producing Provinces). The amount was allegedly divided among Estrada (P70 million), his wife Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito (P20 million), his son Jinggoy (P15 million) and his friend Charlie "Atong" Ang (P25 million).

3. Illegal gambling payoffs

From November 1998 to August 2000, Estrada was said to have solicited and received from Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson P545 million derived from the proceeds of illegal jueteng operations in Ilocos Sur and other provinces.

4. Intervention in the stock market

Estrada was accused of pressuring then Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. to clear the president's friend, Dante Tan, of any wrongdoing in the stock manipulation case against Tan whose firm BW Resources Corp. had a spectacular 5,000 percent increase in its share price from P2 to P107 a share in a span of eight months ending in October 1999. ***PDI Research***

SOURCES: INFORMATION SHEETS ON ESTRADA CASES AT THE SANDIGANBAYAN, PDI ARCHIVES

SANDIGANBAYAN
CENTENNIAL BUILDING

THE IRONY OF IT is that the plunder trial of ex-President Estrada, which reaches a new high today when he takes the stand today, is that it was during his tenure that the imposing new antigraft court structure was inaugurated in 1999. RAFFY LERMA

Estrada's Statement

The following statement by ousted President Joseph Estrada was released to the press yesterday:

IT HAS BEEN A PERIOD OF EXtreme mental and spiritual anguish as well as emotional strain. For almost five years, I have been denied my liberty and stripped of my honor on the basis of trumped-up charges lodged against me by my political enemies,

There has been no let-up in the constant, and consistent, efforts to vilify me before the Filipino people. The powers that be have used every trick available to them to keep me in detention and to deny my right to free speech.

Ngayon, sa wakas, ay may sumisilay ng liwanag sa kahabaan ng dilim. Sa ika-22 ng Marso, ang inyong lingkod ay haharap na sa Sandiganbayan special division upang magbigay ng salaysay ukol sa mga kasong isinampa laban sa akin.

Bagama't ilan pa sanang testigo ang dapat ay haharap upang lalo pang gibain ang mga paratang laban sa akin, sumuko ang mga ito sa mga banta laban sa kanilang kaligtasan—mga bantang pinaniniwalaan kong galing sa iisang kampo: ang grupo ng mga nangangamba para sa kanilang puwesto sa sandaling napatunayan ko sa harap ng mg mahistrado ng anti-graft court na ako's walang sala.

I have paid a painful and heavy price for my convictions. In 2001, I was twice offered exile in a country of my choice if only I were to submit a letter of resignation thereby laying a stamp of legitimacy on those who succeeded in mounting a coup d'etat against my presidency—a presidency which, by the way, I won fair and square—a fact which even my most bitter political enemies could not deny nor cast doubts on.

I refused both offers, and those that grabbed power made sure I suffered for my determination to stay and prove my innocence before an honorable court.

Yet, despite the price I have had to pay, my detention has been worth every second if only to prove my innocence to those who truly matter the most: my countrymen. I intend to use my every appearance in court to relate the facts. Not facts as peddled by prosecution witnesses whose statements cannot be corroborated nor could they be supported by documents, but facts that are unquestionable and inarguable. In short, the absolute truth.

The past few months have been equally difficult ones for our country. Natural calamities have tragically claimed many lives. Our economy continues to lurch from one crisis to another. The social and moral fabric of our nation has literally been ripped asunder by flawed executive decisions, highlighted by the recent Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 which in my view is just a flimsy excuse to impose virtual martial rule.

I offer only a humble opinion from a Filipino citizen who has himself fallen victim to the viciousness of this regime: Our country is suffering from the sins of its current leaders. When lying, cheating and stealing become part and parcel of (mis)governance, there will be no end in sight to the impoverished future our countrymen face, nor to the polarization which holds sway in our society.

As a citizen accused of a crime, I shall appear in court to fight for my innocence, my honor and liberty.

But as a constitutionally elected President robbed of his mandate, I shall appear in court to fight for the restoration of the rule of law and bring about an end to the rule of force which has blighted our land and shaken the very foundations of our democracy.

It is a battle that will be won by truth. And only the truth can save our Republic.

Cheap rice, medicine offered to the poor in anti-GMA bishops' parishes

From page A1

But Bastes yesterday scolded the media for supposedly "reading too much" into the visit.

He said Ms Arroyo came to his diocese only to attend the 50th anniversary of Msgr. Augusto Laban's ordination as a priest. Laban served as Malacañang chaplain from 2000 to 2004.

"We didn't discuss mining or anything at all," Bastes told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

One prelate, an antimining advocate whose diocese was furnished a copy of the letter nearly two weeks ago, said on Monday the program targeted the poorest dioceses in the country.

Some of these dioceses are also home to some of the most controversial mining operations which are being opposed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Palace defends program

"We weren't born yesterday," the bishop told the INQUIRER. "It's evident that the President is trying to court us."

The bishop, who comes from the South, asked not to be identified, saying he didn't want his diocese to be the focus of controversy.

Malacañang denied the accusation, saying it had no other motive in its food and medical subsidies and other social projects than to address the plight of the poorest of the poor.

Offering cheap rice and medicine isn't really new. The National Food Authority has long been a source of rice priced lower than the ordinary market price. There are also existing "Botika ng Bayan" projects offering cheaper medicine.

Seed money

In the letter signed by Undersecretary Fatima Valdes, the Palace asked each diocese to choose five parishes for the rice and medicine program and to register them with the Office of Religious Affairs.

Each of the parishes will then receive seed money of P15,000 to be used to purchase rice from the NFA. The parish will then sell the rice to parishioners at P18 per kilo, which is lower than the commercial price.

"To save on cost, parishioners are to bring containers when they buy rice," Valdes wrote. "Each family beneficiary will be allowed to buy only the number of kilos sufficient to feed family members."

'Botika ng Parokya'

For the medicine program, Valdes said the selected parishes would be given an "initial stock of medicines which (are) priced at about 30 percent lower than (the) market (price)."

Under the banner "Botika ng Parokya," the scheme was meant to encourage the parishes to sell the medicine at a lower price.

"This will enable the parish to make good profit that can be used to support livelihood projects," Valdes wrote.

Sounds well-meaning, but the bishop from the South said he had no plans to initiate the project in his diocese.

No dignity

"It insults the poor, treating them like beggars," he explained. "There's no dignity in doling out cheap rice and medicine for the poor. These things are palliative."

If Malacañang is really serious about alleviating poverty, it should come up with programs to generate jobs and stable incomes, the bishop said.

Poverty is all over his province, highlighted by a long stretch of unpaved roads, he noted.

Despite the underdevelopment, the bishop said his diocese had one effective program allowing parishioners to borrow specific amounts to start small businesses.

"Give the people jobs and you'll give them back their dignity," he said.

Just a coincidence

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said it was pure "coincidence" that some of the poorest of the poor that Malacañang was looking at lived in dioceses run by bishops critical of Ms Arroyo.

"We target the same areas because the people there need government help the most," Defensor said.

He said the Arroyo administration did not need to curry favor with the bishops in these areas because these projects would run purely on government initiative. ***With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

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AFP spokesman talking again

COL. TRISTAN KISON IS talking again.

The chief of the Armed Forces public information office yesterday faced reporters covering the defense beat for the first time since he came under fire from lawmakers and political analysts for his statements that the military was holding the nation together.

Kison made no mention of his statements last March 15 when he said the "the nation will collapse" if the military gives in to pressure to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He also showed no indication how he was affected by the tirades hurled against him and the military in general. Yesterday, there was no mention of the remark and the reactions it elicited.

Kison was joined in yesterday's news conference at Camp Aguinaldo by Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado who was reappointed as military spokesman last week after the uproar caused by Kison's remarks.

Kison showed up at the Army's 109th anniversary celebration last Monday, after the media reported that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga had issued a command directive dated March 8 spelling out the military's role at these "trying times."

In it, Senga stated that the military is "not to be regarded as a potent political force to be used by politicians in the furtherance of their vested interests."

Senga also stated that the Armed Forces' constitutional mandate as protector of the people and the State "is not a license to wrest leadership of the government from public officials on the basis of perceived imperfections of governance."

"As mandated, we must remain apolitical," said Senga in his directive which was not released to the media until last Saturday.

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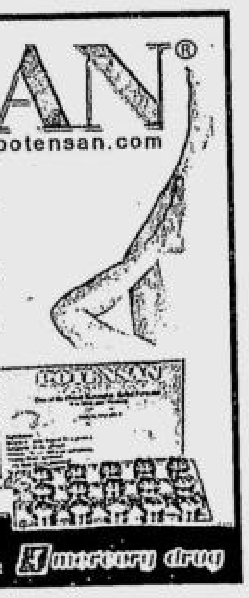

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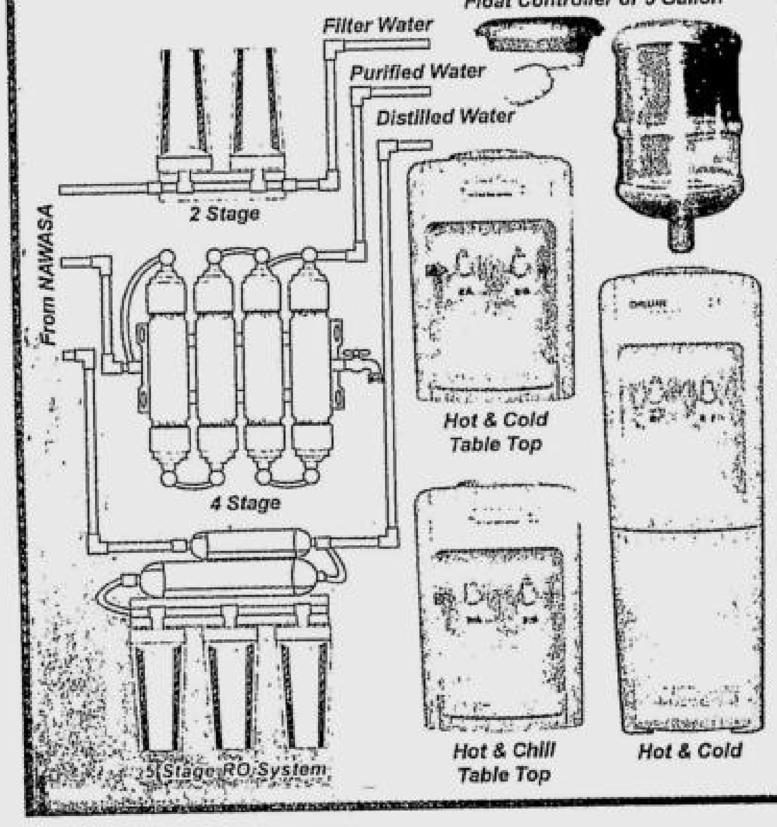

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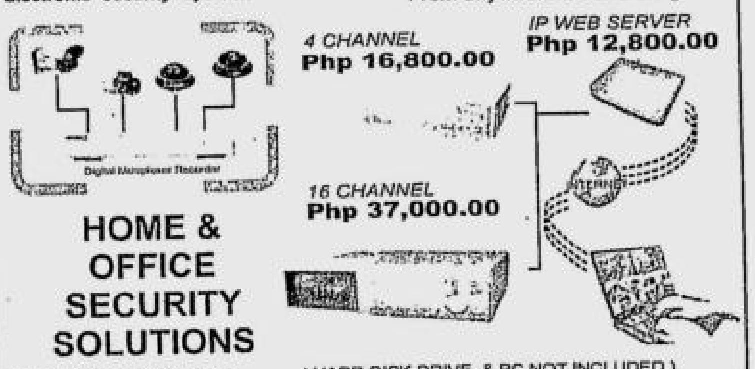

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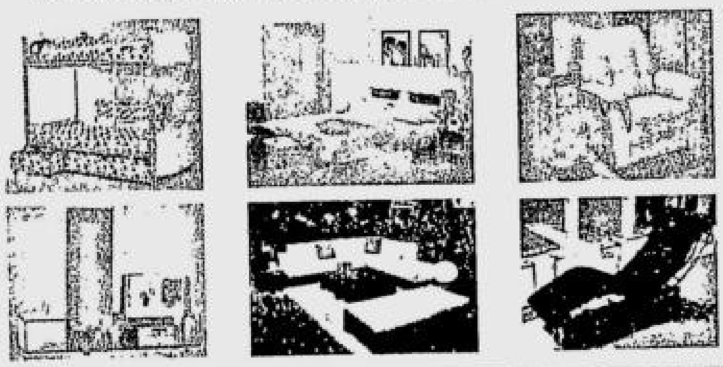

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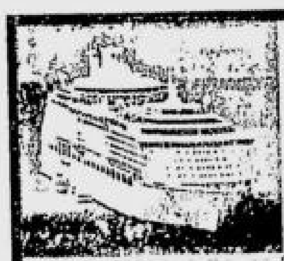

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Troops curious, not restive, about 'Hello Garci' probe – Esperon

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE TROOPS ARE not restive but merely "curious" about the non-disclosure of the results of the military's investigation into the alleged involvement of some generals in the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal, according to Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Esperon, one of the generals mentioned in the purported telephone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and ex-Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on election-rigging operations, said he, too, wanted disclosure of the investigation report submitted by Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga last January.

"I'm excited about it," Esperon told reporters in Fort Bonifacio.

The results have been kept under wraps since the five-man fact-finding board wrapped up its investigation last October. Senga says he has forwarded the report to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., who in turn says he will submit it to the President, who would then decide whether to make it public.

Esperon rejected reports there was restiveness in the ranks because of the involvement of the generals in the alleged election cheating.

"Maybe restiveness is not the... appropriate word to describe their feelings," Esperon said.

"I just feel that we really need to inform [the] public about what really transpired," he added. "Isn't everybody curious about [that] information?"

Esperon has denied involvement in any election irregularity as did the other generals. He also denied that Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani [who retired last Oct. 4] was relieved as brigade commander and Task Force Ranao chief during the canvassing of votes in the Lanao provinces allegedly to facilitate the cheating.

"Some people might get restive on that [issue] depending on their pre-dispositions. But restiveness is one thing; doing violent actions in connection with that restiveness is another," Esperon said, apparently referring to an alleged plot by some military units to withdraw support from the President last Feb. 24.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon had said that Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim of the Scout Rangers and Col. Ariel Querubin of the Marines were among the officers who complained to him last July 2 about the lack of investigation then into the military involvement in the "Hello Garci" scandal..

Still, Esperon and the other so-called "Hello Garci" generals were promoted, triggering the military unrest, Biazon said.

Esperon was named Army chief last August. In January, Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon was named chief of the AFP Southern Command while Rear Admiral. Tirso Danga, who headed the Isafp at the time of the alleged wiretapping, was named AFP Western Command chief.

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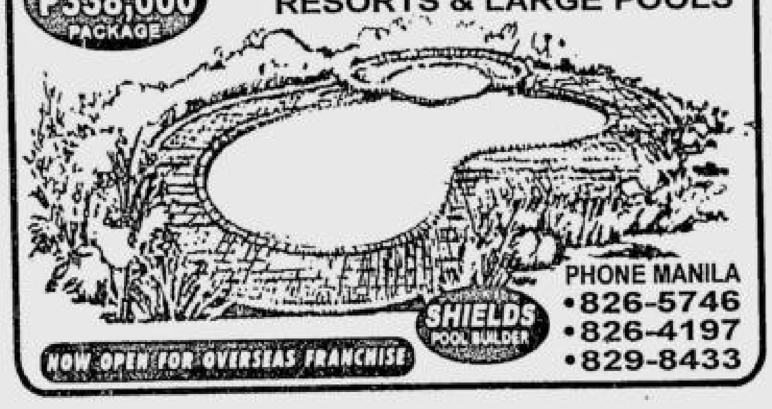

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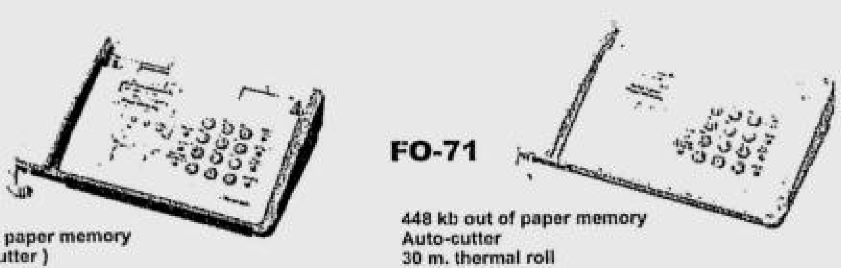

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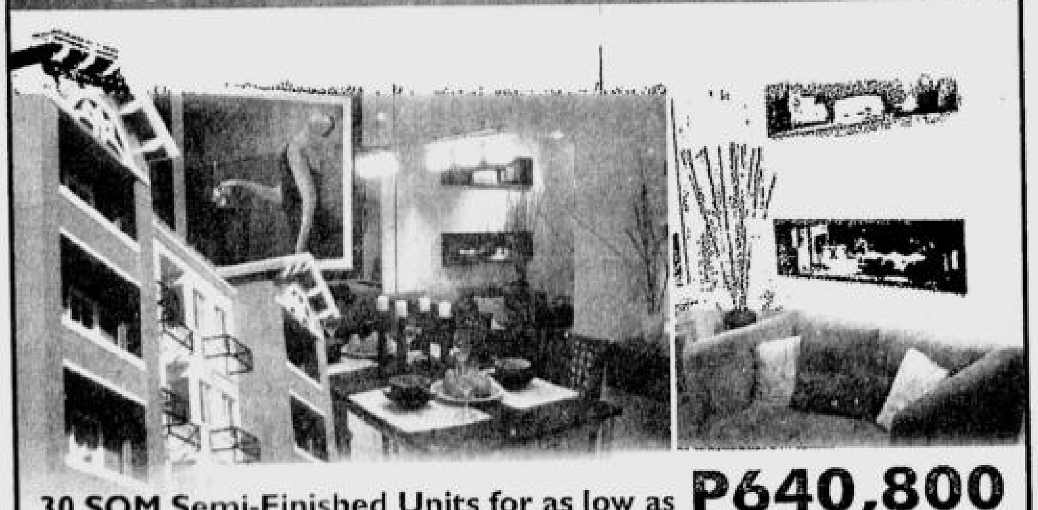

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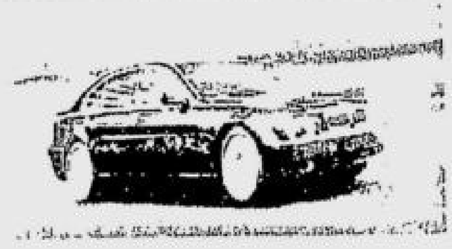

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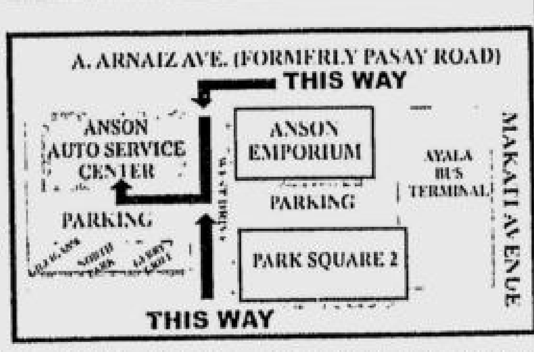

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‘Bookies’ sabotage STL

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—BARELY A month after the government-sanctioned Small Town Lottery (STL) started operating in Quezon, the numbers game was being sabotaged by “bookies” or illegal betting stations.

Leti Renomeron, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office-Quezon branch manager, said her office was receiving reports that illegal STL betting stations had started to proliferate in some parts of the province.

“The police should stop these operations. It is their duty to protect the STL since they also have a stake in its success,” Renomeron said.

Under the PCSO sharing system, 30 percent of the net sales of the STL operation will be divided as follows: city or municipal government, 10 percent; provincial government, 5 percent; local police, 5 percent, and each congressional district, 2.5 percent.

The PCSO official acknowledged that she had expected the operations of illegal STL betting stations. “There’s already a special task force especially assigned to get rid of them,” Renomeron said.

She said that patronizing STL games run by bookies was against the law and that any bettor or collector for the underground lottery faced arrest.

Several STL sales representatives or “cobradores” have revealed to the INQUIRER that some of their fellow bet takers had been submitting the collected bets not to the official STL station but to the illegal bookies.

“We can’t blame them. They receive a much higher commission (from the bookies) than from the PCSO,” said one of the STL employees.

With the proliferation of bookies, STL bet collectors complained that their collections were getting smaller every day.

“The bookies offer a much higher cash pot than the one being offered by the official STL station. That’s why the bettors go to the bookie joints,” the collector said.

Puno to run gov’t ‘jueteng’

From page A1

the designation of Puno as STL implementor, Pimentel said: “STL may be a source of funds that may not be strictly accountable for activities of the administration people.’”

Puno said STL operations nationwide would be deferred until its legality was clarified and its implementation made clear.

“Now that the PCSO has done an experimental run, it should review its guidelines to see whether there are any improvements to be made to ensure that STL is not in violation of any existing law,” Puno said at a press conference.

The postponement began over the weekend and would last until the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine National Police were given clear guidelines on how the numbers game would be implemented, he said.

Hagedorn and the PCSO had planned to start STL operations this week in five areas—Quezon, Laguna, Palawan, Bicol and Pangasinan.

Charter change

Opposition Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson, for his part, said that Puno’s new role could be connected to the government’s push to amend the 1987 Constitution through a people’s initiative.

“The connection is too glaring to ignore. Even his illegal assumption as interior secretary without being confirmed by the Commission on Appointments in clear violation of the Constitution is not without motive,’” he said.

Lacson said Malacañang wanted to amend the Charter to extend Ms Arroyo’s term beyond 2010.

“She has no choice but to stay in power, lest she will suffer Erap’s fate once she loses presidential immunity,’” Lacson said, referring to Estrada who was ousted in 2001 and indicted for plunder.

The STL project had been on the drawing boards since the Aquino administration but it had failed to take off despite several attempts due to logistical problems and strong opposition from the Church.

No more pretending

This time, there’s no more pretending STL is the government version of jueteng, the multibillion-peso underground lottery.

The STL test run involved familiar characters involved in jueteng.

In the document, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, an STL sales agent was explicitly identified as a “cobrador” while a sales supervisor went by the title of “cabo.”

A sales agent stands to get 10 percent and a sales supervisor 2 percent of the operating fund that would comprise 15 percent of the net revenues of STL, according to the document.

STL will have three daily draws much like its underground counterpart.

“President Macapagal-Arroyo will go down in history as the only President to take jueteng to the mainstream,” antijueteng crusader Archbishop Oscar Cruz told the INQUIRER.

“The present administration appears to have become a devious expert in sucking in the money of people,” Cruz said.

Deed of authority

The PCSO board of directors approved the “Revised Deed of Authority and the Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of the Actual Test Runs for the PCSO Small Town Lottery Project” through Resolution No. 464.

It was signed by PCSO chair Sergio Valencia, general manager Rosario Uriarte and directors Manuel Morato, Victor Domingo and Teresita Gonzalez in a board meeting on Dec. 28, 2005.

Capital stock of P20M

Under the terms, an “Authority to Conduct Test Runs” for STL would be granted only to corporations fully owned by Filipino citizens with a minimum capital stock of P20 million and a minimum paid-up capital of P5 million.

They would also have to deposit a cash bond of not less than P10 million with the PCSO treasury department.

The PCSO board said a corporation should either be into “product marketing and allied services” or “duly organized for the purpose of conducting actual test runs” for STL.

“It must possess the necessary competence, expertise and capitalization to undertake the project as shall be determined by the office (PCSO),” the document said.

Jueteng lord can run STL

Defensor said it was important that the guidelines for choosing franchise operators would be set up in a transparent manner.

“We don’t want to be accused of favoring a group and giving it accommodation. Whether he is a jueteng operator or not, it does not matter. He will only get a franchise if he is qualified under the guidelines,” Defensor said.

Cruz, head of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said STL would practically be run by the “same jueteng lords under dummy personalities or corporations using the same jueteng administrators and collectors.”

Same victims, beneficiaries

“STL and jueteng have exactly the same victims twice exploited, the poor, the same beneficiaries twice favored, certain local officials and police authorities, and the same gambling lords twice enriched,” the archbishop said.

The prelate said the revival of STL might in fact be related to the 2007 elections in which the Arroyo administration would have to “dance with gambling lords as usual.”

Like jueteng, which involves number combinations from 1 to 38, the STL test run will have combinations up to 40 numbers. The new game is to be called “Pick-Two 1-40.”

There will only be one STL test run for every province and “chartered city,” according to the PCSO document.

Who gets what

Five percent of the gross revenues of STL will go to the “agent corporation” while another 5 percent will go to taxes.

The remaining 90 percent will be for prizes, and charity and operating funds.

In the so-called charity fund, 10 percent will be given to the city or municipality, 5 percent to the province, 2.5 percent to the district, 5 percent to the local police, and 7.5 percent to the PCSO.

Jueteng operators are widely believed to spread grease money among local police and government officials to stay in business. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

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Nationwide hunt is on for Gringo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A NATIONWIDE MANHUNT FOR former Senator Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan who is considered "armed and dangerous" is on as the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) distributed copies of his arrest warrant to its regional offices.

Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI Special Task Force (STF) chief, said he had also instructed the bureau's regional offices to give his office a periodic update on their operations against Honasan.

"As of now, we still do not have particular areas of concentration because there are no reports about the actual whereabouts of the former senator," Esmeralda told reporters yesterday.

"All fugitives, including Honasan, are considered armed and dangerous," Esmeralda added.

The NBI STF chief also said that he has requested the Department of Justice to file a motion for the issuance of a hold departure order against Honasan before the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 145, which issued the warrant against the former senator for the crime of coup d' etat.

PCGG's terms for deal with Marcoses: Full disclosure

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government said yesterday it would require the Marcoses to disclose the extent of their assets in the Philippines and overseas before it would enter into a compromise with the family.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede made the statement following the call by some senators, Aquilino Pimentel among them, for the Marcoses to disclose all their assets before the government would negotiate with them.

Abcede, however, clarified the PCGG was not about to demand immediate disclosure by the Marcoses, saying doing so would only be one part of the negotiations.

"Some have said Mrs. Marcos should reveal her assets. Sure, that should be part of it. There is a process here," Abcede said.

He said the first stage of any negotiation should be exploratory talks.

"We need to see what the requirements from both sides are. One of the first requirements of the government is full disclosure. We can talk later about the sharing," he said.

Abcede claimed he was "misquoted" when he suggested a 70-30 sharing scheme in favor of the government for the Marcos wealth in exchange for the dropping of the civil cases against the family. He said the sharing plan would be worked out later.

The Marcoses are facing more than 500 civil cases in different courts.

Pimentel had rejected giving the Marcoses 30 percent of the allegedly ill-gotten wealth, suggesting that they be given 10 percent.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) also called on the Marcoses to disclose their assets.

Danilo Ramos, KMP secretary general, however, said the Marcoses should get nothing in exchange for the dropping of the cases against them.

"They (Marcoses) should disclose all their wealth and give it all back to the people. Unlike Pimentel, we vehemently oppose a compromise even if only 10 percent of the wealth will be given to the Marcoses. It is the Filipino people's money and it should be returned to them in its entirety, as well as all the assets acquired with it," Ramos said.

He said any deal with the Marcoses "legitimizes their plunder of the people's coffers and in essence exonerates the Marcoses from their crimes against the people."

"This is a wholesale sellout of what the martyrs of the struggle against tyranny fought for. A compromise deal with the Marcoses is a betrayal of the public trust," the peasant leader said.

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Extermination

EDITORIAL

DEFENSE SECRETARY AVELINO CRUZ DECORATED Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. with the Distinguished Service Star, and showered him with accolades during the celebration of Army Day last Monday. And there seems to be no other direction Palparan's career is headed but up.

His latest commendation comes in the wake of what he and the Armed Forces insist are achievements in the field in Samar. The targets of his efforts—dissident groups—say he presided over a systematic liquidation campaign of political activists. Palparan counters by suggesting that the only liquidating going on is at the hands of CPP-NPA cadres who are interested in purging their ranks and passing off the summary executions as the handiwork of the military.

Last week, in Davao City, Raunil Mortejo, chair of Anakbayan in that city, stepped out of his office—only to be accosted, according to him, by unidentified men who bundled him into a van whose license plates had been covered. The men proceeded to interrogate him about his activities and the people he dealt with. For close to an hour, he was questioned and warned to stop his political activities.

Last Sunday in Albay, Cris Hugo, a journalism student, was assassinated as he walked home with his professor. Hugo was a coordinator in the local chapter of the League of Filipino Students. He had been receiving death threats and even visits from armed men who sought to dissuade him from further engaging in political activities.

On the same day Palparan was decorated for his anti-insurgency achievements, the wife and son of a peasant leader were killed in Zambales. The farmer himself was gravely wounded in the attack.

We therefore have, on the one hand, an administration that is eager to promote and honor an officer, Palparan, without so much as seriously and thoroughly investigating allegations of human rights violations on his part. On the other hand, the same administration continues to remain unimpressed—and unconcerned—with what can only be described as a shadowy effort to eliminate dissident leaders in the countryside.

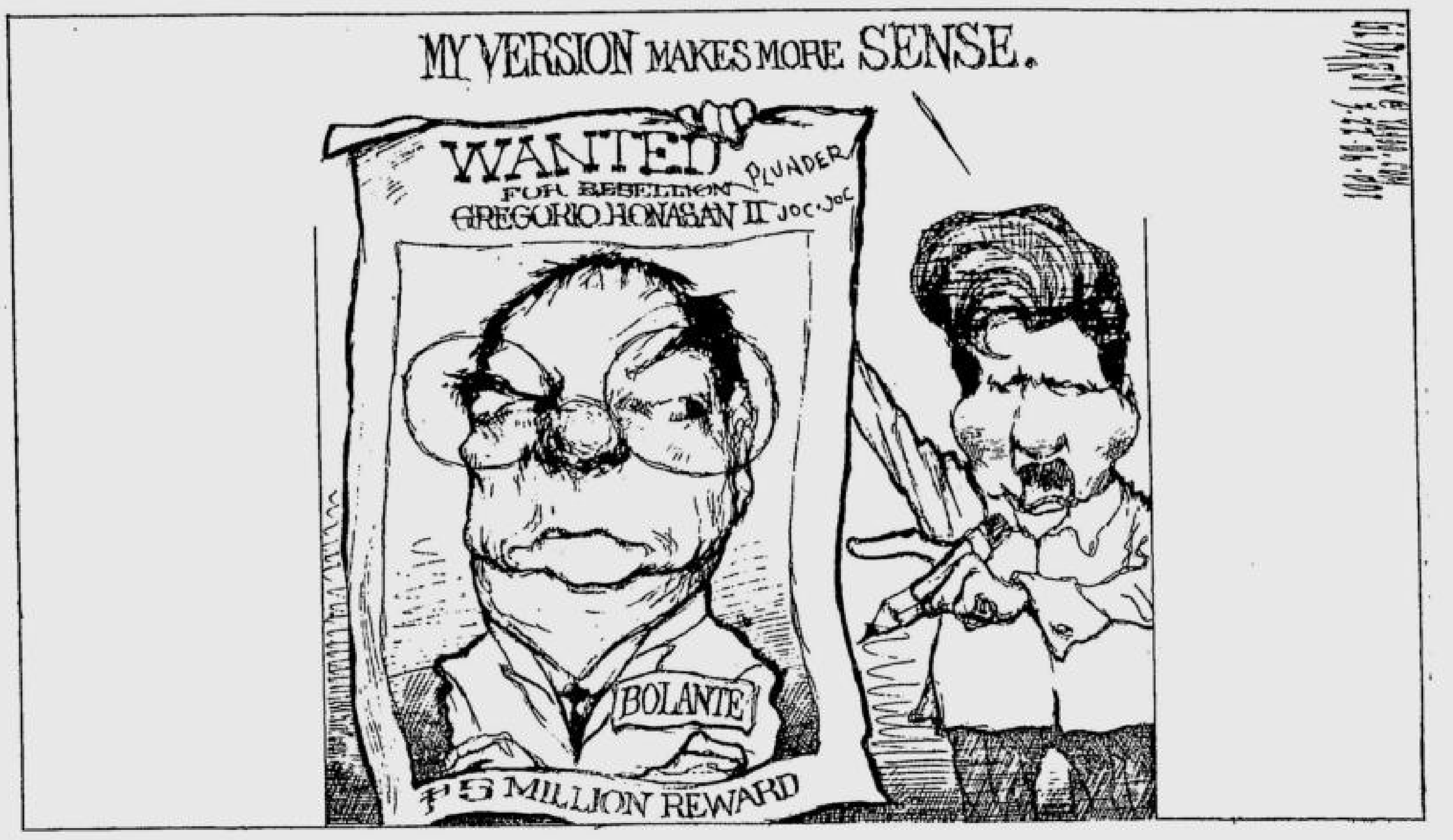
Amnesty International has been expressing alarm over this trend, but naturally this is being ignored by the powers that be. Hard questions need to be asked, however, as the Arroyo administration embarks on an all-out offensive against the CPP-NPA and those it considers to be communist front organizations or their allies.

The first question involves the wisdom of practically abandoning the peace process, which has been ongoing, with varying levels of success, for two decades in comparison to the communist insurgency's 40 years of armed struggle. We have known since the 1950s that insurgency cannot be defeated without attending to the root causes of revolution, just as the citizenry cannot simply be abandoned to the tender mercies of revolutionaries as a political solution is sought. We also know that the saying "Talk is cheap but lives are not" makes peace talks a worthy investment in terms of time and effort.

The second question involves the implications of fiercely defending military officers regardless of whether or not criticisms against them have a basis. This can only demoralize the Armed Forces, which will earn the enmity and hatred of a citizenry who finds it impossible to seek justice or obtain redress for abuses committed in the field.

The third question involves the true implications of an administration policy which might actually inspire more and more people to abandon their quest for change within constitutional limits or by participating in democratic exercises, and instead, head for the hills or go underground. Continued official indifference to what is clearly a systematic policy of extermination can only suggest to dissidents that they are sitting ducks if they persist in staying above-ground and continue to engage in legal political activities. It will drive them to undertake their own, calibrated preemptive response against a society that denies them democratic space. And this can only lead to more ambuscades, more burnings of provincial outposts and cell sites, more assassinations, more murder, more fighting, more deaths and destruction.

In the end, we must ask President Macapagal-Arroyo if she agrees with the American soldier in Vietnam who said that in order to save a village, it must be destroyed.



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As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

HERE IS MORE BAD NEWS NOT ONLY FOR electricity consumers but also for all citizens. The Epira Law (Energy and Power Industry Reform Act), which provides for the privatization of the National Power Corp., with the proceeds supposedly going to pay for the gargantuan debts of the power firm and reduce our foreign and domestic debts and our budget deficit, is not being implemented by Napocor officials.' Instead, it is embarking on another borrowing binge for which the Filipino taxpayers will ultimately have to pay. The Napocor borrowed $800 million last year. It has announced that it will borrow another $700 million this year. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM), an agency tasked by the Epira Law to oversee the privatization of Napocor, has already absorbed P200 billion of Napocor's debts and has declared that it will absorb another $500 million (or P26 billion) more. Who will pay for all these? We the taxpayers, of course, including those who don't use electricity.

Napocor's debts, which contribute immensely to the ballooning budget deficit of the government, are also a result of controversial power projects that to date remain idle due to legal infirmities and lack of clear vision as to how the power sector should be handled. The Epira Law could have prevented our government from further hemorrhaging, but what the Napocor did and continues to do is the opposite.

The foreign debts of the Napocor now add up to $9.1 billion. This does not include its obligations to local creditors, which also amount to billions of pesos. Napocor's foreign and domestic debts total about one-third of our total debts. The total reached about $9.6 billion in mid-2005, from only about $6.2 billion in 2001.

President Macapagal-Arroyo contributed immensely to the hemorrhage when she ordered the reduction of the purchased power adjustment being collected by Napocor from its buyers, including the Manila Electric Co., from P1.25 per kilowatt hour to only 40 centavos per kWh in 2002. The reduction further weighed down Napocor's viability.

During the last quarter of 2005, Napocor again went on a borrowing spree, selling about P11 billion worth of zero-coupon bonds to be used to pay for maturing obligations and capital expenditures. These bonds are again guaranteed by the national government or the taxpayers, in other words.

Napocor's debts go round and round in never-ending cycles that sink it deeper into a morass of debts. New loans are made to pay for maturing debts, and so on, so the debts just get bigger and bigger.

More than four years ago, Napocor promised that once the Epira Law was enacted, electricity costs would go down. Four years later, Napocor reneged on its promise by intentionally blocking efforts to privatize its assets, causing it to incur more debts that are added to our national debt.

Recently, it announced that it had sold at least 10 percent of its assets, already way below the original target of 70 percent by 2004. Congress found out, however, that Napocor officials were hiding the real figures. Only 3 percent of the "gencos" (power generation companies) have been sold, said Sen. Joker Arroyo.

We are tired of the lame excuses Napocor officials give for the delays in the sale of these gencos. Four years after the passage of the Epira Law, they have done very little to transfer the titles, get the approval of the creditors for the sale or firm up transition supply contracts. These are the reasons potential investors back away from the bidding for some plants.

There is only one reason Napocor officials are delaying privatization: they want to keep their lucrative jobs. And who wouldn't, when its officials enjoyed P1.2 billion in kickbacks and commissions from coal and oil importation alone, billions more in commissions from bond flotation and shady deals, and a P12-billion retirement package?

After collecting the P12-billion retirement package, the same Napocor officials were rehired as consultants and it can be surmised that they are again back in business. At least 25 executives and senior officials availed themselves of this retirement package, each pocketing about P120 million. The same officials created companies that cornered contracts with Napocor. Some of them were found to be still collecting huge sums of money from Napocor power plants and electric cooperatives as consultants. At least one former official's company was found to be still collecting P400,000 a month from Zambales (Electric) II as part of the management contract it signed with the firm.

Remember also that Napocor is the sole buyer of fuel (coal, bunker oil, diesel) for Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Why? Because Napocor does not pay taxes, while IPPs pay 3 percent tariff. Napocor gets kickbacks from the IPPs.

Napocor oil and coal imports amount to about $300 million a year. Ten percent of that is $30 million or P1.5 billion. The government is losing P1.5 billion worth of kickbacks to Napocor officials.

It is obvious that its own officials have made Napocor their own private treasure chest. Arroyo said he would bring the retirement package scam to the Senate blue ribbon committee. After all, it dwarfs even the fertilizer scam which cost the taxpayers only P720 million.

It appears that Napocor is being sabotaged from within—by the very same people who are running it. What is the President doing about it?

Poetic justice

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE REACTIONS OF PEOPLE TO THE SUCCESS of our concert last week have set me wondering about it myself. What made it so easy? What caused the abundant flow of support, financial and otherwise, from so many sectors of society? Why did the musicians volunteer so readily? (Even among the bands that declined, the musicians wanted in even if their managers, fearing all sorts of repercussions on their careers, did not.) And more importantly, why did the public take to it like bedraggled wanderers in the desert to an oasis?

Well, part of it, as many people have told me, is me. I agree. I like to give credit where credit is due, even if it is due me. False modesty is always false because it is really an ardent, if surreptitious, invitation to praise. Yes, I do think the musicians, the contributors, and the public responded the way they did because they figured their talents, their money and prayers, and their attention would not go to waste. It helps to have no ulterior motive or personal agenda. It helps to have credibility.

But there is a far deeper reason for it. I've been reflecting on what a musician said that night, which was that we seemed to have touched a chord somewhere, a truly apt comment in a night of music. (Or music for the most part to the youth's ears: Some members of my generation, or indeed the previous one, appeared to have wondered if a good deal of what they heard might be called that. But that's another story.) I've formed a theory about that "chord." It goes this way:

In his book, "The Rebel," Albert Camus proposed that the true rebel doesn't just say no to something, he says yes to something else. He doesn't just negate, he affirms. That doesn't mean that when he says no to what is wrong on one hand, he has a proposal for what is right on the other. That means that his "yes" is presupposed in his "no," his affirmation is embedded in his negation. The connection is natural, instinctive, instantaneous.

That is not as convoluted as it seems and is readily seen in the two Edsas. The "no" to Marcos naturally presupposed a "yes" to Cory. That was what made Cory's vow to be "the opposite of Marcos" a most powerful thing. The saying no to an evil presupposed a saying yes to a good. Just as well, the saying no to Erap presupposed a saying yes to the good represented by the combined forces of civil society, the Church, business, media and the ordinary citizens. Contrary to rumor, this country does not need a face for an "alternative." Steeped as we are in interpersonal relations, we needed only an idea, goal, or hope of a better life to remove Erap. It was not a face that launched a thousand ships, or 10,000 people, at Edsa II. GMA is to Helen of Troy as hell is to heaven, politically as much as aesthetically. If we had only GMA to inspire us during Edsa II, all the ships would have sunk, if indeed they could have been coaxed to sail in the first place.

The link between saying yes to a good while saying no to an evil is broken today. The "yes" is not presupposed in the "no." Saying no to GMA does not naturally contain in its pores its assumed opposite. The good remains an unknown quantity, whether in thought or in feeling, whether starkly or vaguely. That's what's causing the apathy and cynicism notwithstanding, as the surveys bear out, the near-universal detestation of the regime. Indeed, that's what's causing a good deal of the public to say, "*Sawa na ako sa pulitika* (I'm tired of politics)." That is little helped by the fact that the faces the public sees condemning tyranny also include Erap loyalists, the people who helped GMA steal the vote, and assorted *trapos* who just happen to belong to the other side. The condemnation of evil cannot soar to moral heights with that leaden "political" baggage.

That's what made the concert last Thursday the magical thing it was. It restored the link between saying no to an evil and yes to a good, it reconstituted the bond between negation and affirmation, it re-forged the connection between protest and hope. For the first time in quite a long time, there was a pure voice raised against tyranny, giving the public to rekindle dreams once again. There, you found the inextricable link, bond, connection between saying no to dictatorship and yes to freedom. There you found an unbreakable link, bond, connection between saying "Never again!" to martial law and saying "Ever again!" to all that is decent and honest and life-affirming. The one presupposed the other, fused in the fires of music.

People would tell me later we might have stumbled on an alternative form of protest. I thank them for saying that, but I have to say as well that we did not discover anything new, we merely rediscovered something old. But that has nearly been forgotten: You need a pure voice for the condemnation of evil to take on moral wings. You need a pure voice for the voice of God, or the people—which, as the phrase "vox populi, vox Dei" tells us, is but one and the same thing—to be heard. That was what made people power happen in the past, that is what will make people power happen in the future.

I personally think that it is the voice of musicians, and of artists and intellectuals generally—poets, writers (including journalists), painters, theater people, moviemakers, philosophers, etc.—and not those of the usual suspects that will ring, or sing, loudest in the coming months. Theirs is an honest voice, theirs is a mellifluous voice, theirs will be a thunderous voice. It is their protest against evil that will give us to see what is good. It is a natural aversion to chains that will help us break them.

Some will call it practical magic. I like to think of it as poetic justice.

Why aren't people marching to oust GMA?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ORGANIZATIONS have made it their magnificent obsession to track the fall of the popularity rating of President Macapagal-Arroyo since the May 2004 elections.

The latest surveys, by Pulse Asia taken from Feb. 18 to March 4, 2006, and by the Social Weather Stations from Nov. 17 to Dec. 4, 2005, draw a grim picture of the administration desperately struggling to climb out of the deep dungeon into which its ratings had sunk, making Ms Arroyo the most unpopular and reviled President the Philippines has ever had, barring none.

The tracks on the surveys' screens show a blueprint of more of the same results, from which the public is not deriving much information about the mood of public opinion. In the case of Ms Arroyo' ratings, the assumption that in a democracy public opinion shifts constantly has been turned on its head. The ratings have become stable in depicting she has indeed been trapped in a deep hole. Question is: Is there hope for her to bolt out? Is there an exit route?

The Pulse Asia survey shows that 59 percent of respondents believed her resignation would be to the best interest of the country, indicating the extent of public disapproval of her performance. The survey found that the percentage of those interviewed after the declaration of a national emergency on Feb. 24 who wanted her to resign rose to 61, compared to 53 percent among those interviewed prior to the declaration. Pulse Asia interpreted these findings as suggesting that the declaration of a national emergency may have made more Filipinos want to see her step down.

The Feb. 18 to March 4 survey reaffirmed the results of Pulse Asia's survey of October 2005, which found that the majority of Filipinos considered the resignation or removal of Ms Arroyo as the best way to solve the current political stalemate. From another perspective, the SWS survey of Nov. 27 to Dec. 4, 2005, found that 54 percent of respondents were dissatisfied with the President's performance, leading the polling firm to conclude that the results cemented Ms Arroyo's niche as the most disliked President since 1986.

The picture drawn by the surveys essentially boils down to widespread revulsion against the regime, manifesting public opinion, as it was affected by the several crises that the regime has undergone, including the impeachment complaint against the President and the aborted coup of Feb. 24.

The findings of the surveys all indicate that the majority of the people want her to go and are dissatisfied with or disapproved of her performance. This leads me to wonder why, despite these findings, she has hung on to power. I would like to think a number of thoughtful citizens are also asking the very politically crucial question: Why is it that this apparently broad constituency of dissatisfied has not translated into mass political action that would force the President out of office?

It is no longer helpful to explain this apathy to "people power fatigue," an explanation favored by tired and lazy minds. Rather, I am raising questions that ought to be answered by the survey organizations and their researchers. This issue is underlined by the fact that since July last year, the President has survived all challenges to oust her, including several calls for people power, Cabinet defections, an impeachment complaint and the coup attempt of Feb. 24, 2006.

The surveys are supposed to reflect the existence of the constituency for ouster. Where then did this constituency go when the calls for mobilization were issued? Why has it not responded and instead remained exasperatingly indifferent to the alleged wrongdoings of the Arroyo regime? The survey results indicate overwhelming public disaffection, but why is it that this undercurrent of disgruntlement has not been tapped to drive the movements for political change?

On the other hand, it may be argued that the President has used the resources of the presidency to hold on to power. It is also clear that she has been receiving support from the provincial governors and mayors who form the political grassroots machinery of the regime. The big question is: Where does the allegiance of the majority identified by the surveys belong? A related question is: Is this a phantom majority that does not show up in the streets when it is needed most?

The surveys have been followed closely by the political players who want to know whether the public mood would back calls for mobilization for mass action to topple the regime and provide mass muscle to or justification for military intervention or withdrawal of support from the regime. But the surveys have so far proved to be unproductive to those who have based their calculations for mounting coup attempts or people power demonstrations on their results. Are they misreading the signs? Are they magnifying the existence of this public opinion? How about the other side of public opinion, that is the silent one held by those who have been apathetic to the calls to go out to the streets?

Maybe some questions should be directed to the public opinion survey-takers. The surveys have focused on the domain of the disgruntled. Why have they not asked why people are not rushing to the streets to join the stampede to oust the Arroyo regime? Already, the survey results derived mostly from opinion of the disgruntled and the converted have resulted in a distorted picture of political reality and disastrous political miscalculations demonstrated by misfired coups and failed attempts at people power. I am just asking questions.

Nostalgia and menopause

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN, AT LEAST AS far as pop acts go. All faded musical stars need do, it seems, is to hang around and wait until their fans are old enough to start earning disposable income but still young enough to remember their youth and want to re-live it. Then the stars will get a second wind, a chance to kick-start a reborn career years after the first blush of success has given way to obsolescence.

In the past few months alone, we have played host—and enthusiastic audiences—to such resurrected 1960s acts as The Cascades, The Zombies, Peter and Gordon, Chad and Jeremy, Spiral Starecase, Herman's Hermits, even Andy Williams and Sergio Mendes.

I have a confession to make. I've never been tempted to watch any of these shows, even if I could, if I wanted, cadge a free ticket or two from the promoters, and even if the hubby and I are devotees of RJFM, where "the latest and the greatest" pop hits are aired, to the delight of our generation of Boomers. The closest I got to buying a ticket aboard the nostalgia train was for the Chad and Jeremy concert, since as a young girl I would be moved to tears by their ballads. But my enthusiasm evaporated when I saw a publicity shot of the duo and spotted two geezers who looked even older than my father, as I remembered him. Now, why would I pay good money to listen to a geriatric pair? A pair, moreover, who would only remind me of how many years and decades have passed since I was a teenager mooning over mellow melodies and sappy lyrics.

* * *

STILL, I can appreciate why people of my age group would be drawn to these bands and performers. Our teens and early adulthood, after all, are often the best times of our lives, when we were carefree and had no more serious concerns than getting our crush to ask us out to the school dance.

It is a time worth looking back on, and the songs of pop idols provided the soundtrack to those days, the memories easily summoned by a few hummable bars, familiar chords and lyrics that rise unbidden in our failing memories.

Besides, it's our last hurrah. I suspect that we are less than a decade away before the songs of our generation go the way of the *kundiman* and Diomedes Maturan. Why, even early Madonna hits are now considered Golden Oldies!

So before our own faculties grow too feeble to be of any use, we might as well put our earnings to good use by taking a nostalgic musical trip, back to the days when songs had distinct melodies and danceable tunes, and the words, however silly, were at least intelligible and made sense. Now, if only they could get the original Monkees, especially Davy Jones, to get together and disprove the nasty rumor that they pre-dated Milli Vanilli by staging a live concert here, I might yet be convinced to get on this bandwagon to our pop music past.

* * *

NOT exactly a nostalgic trip, and indeed a homage to the life changes that women of a certain age are going through, is the musical "We're Still Hot," onstage every weekend until April at the new Teatrino in Greenhills.

"Hot" in the musical's title could refer to the hot flashes that women experience as they go through menopause, but it could also refer to the four women in the cast, whose stories and songs prove that even as women age, they never really lose steam.

Originally staged in Canada before making a successful off-Broadway run, "We're Still Hot" tells the story of three high school classmates who are putting up a musical revue on the occasion of their 35th reunion. Kate was a promising writer who dreamed of conquering Broadway before early motherhood and a failed marriage doomed her to a series of dead-end jobs and even welfare. Marnie is a high-powered CEO who has never really found personal happiness, moving through a string of husbands and boyfriends, including her latest, a 21-year-old stud. Cynthia was on her way to a voice scholarship at La Scala before her boyfriend and husband-to-be convinced her to set her dreams aside in favor of "proper" wifehood, including catering to his every need. When a fourth classmate fails to show up, Zsu Zsu, a cleaning lady who it turns out was a musical star in her native Hungary, volunteers and puts some artistic discipline into their original amateur production.

* * *

MARGIE Moran-Floirendo, one of the women behind Bahaghari, the production outfit behind "We're Still Hot," says she first saw the musical in New York and was fired with the idea of bringing it to Manila. "It not only talks about menopause and aging, but also about how a woman can change and turn her life around," says Margie.

Indeed, on the second night of the Manila production, "We're Still Hot" seems to have attracted the right demographic—women approaching or long past middle-age who "get" the jokes about menopause and even more so the sexually charged lyrics. The hands-down number that brings the audience to loud cheering and applause, though, is when Cynthia, portrayed by a spirited Pinky Marquez, finally breaks out of her shell and not only tells off her philandering husband Chuck but also discovers her inner rebel.

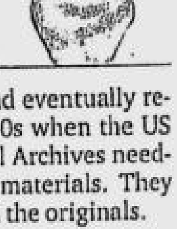
The rest of the cast are just as effective and affecting. Lynn Sherman may be a bit too young for a musical on menopause, but when, as Kate, she sings of coming to terms with her own artistry, she hits the heartstrings. Shamaine Centenera as the spark plug Marnie is energetic and compelling. A surprise is Nina Romualdez as Zsu Zsu in her first stage outing. Though tentative at times, she brings a measure of confidence and even comedy to her role.

"It's like a giant consciousness-raising session," I told Margie at the musical's end. There's certainly a lot of passion and empowerment—and heat—in this musical.

Japanese history on the Internet

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



LAST WEEK, A SMALL GATHERING OF LIBRARIANS, archivists and cultural workers was convened by Salvacion Arlante, librarian of the University of the Philippines, to meet Ishii Yoneo, director general of the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records (JACAHR). What I presumed to be a social call was actually an introduction to the work they are doing in Japan with regard to historical records and, more precisely, how they are digitizing these records and making them available on the Internet.

What I found astounding is the fact that the Japanese National Archives houses a collection of over 1.1 million books and approximately 550,000 Japanese government documents and publications dating from the Meiji Period (1868-1912) to the present. One wonders how our own National Library and Records Management and Archives Office (RMAO), which passes itself off as the "National Archives," will compare in terms of size. If you want a graphic description of the Japanese collection, if laid end to end, the bookshelves would run to about 35 kilometers. That's about the same distance from Manila to Bulacan.

With all the controversy that surrounds Japan's way of remembering its own history, especially its role in Asia during World War II, one would think it would be difficult to access its historical records. Fortunately, the Americans carted off all the records they could find from Japan to Washington where everything was opened, processed and microfilmed. Decades later, the original materials were returned to Japan. These materials now form an important section of the Japan Center for Historical Records that was established under the Japan National Archives.

The same thing was done with the records of our short-lived Philippine Republic. When Emilio Aguinaldo's seat of government in Malolos fell into American hands in 1899 and he fled to Palanan, Isabela, all the government records were carted away to Washington, where they were sorted out, microfilmed, and eventually returned to Manila in the late 1950s when the US Library of Congress and National Archives needed more shelf space for other materials. They kept the microfilms and returned the originals.

Today all this documentary evidence is preserved in our National Library by Director Prudenciana Cruz. It is reflective of our reinterpretation of history that this collection, formerly called the "Philippine Insurgent Records," has been renamed the "Philippine Revolutionary Papers."

While we should be glad to have the original manuscripts of our heroes in the Philippines, researchers sometimes have difficulty locating items that have been lost, stolen or misfiled over time and so we always resort to the US-made microfilm that comes with a useful index. Maybe when the Philippines has a better economy, we can have a similar center that will make important Philippine documents accessible to the people, both Filipinos and foreigners, on the Internet.

During the meeting, a demonstration of JACAHR online was presented, and it made my heart sink with envy. There was a search engine that could find materials under certain key words. Often an image of the original document came out and could be read, downloaded or printed out free of charge. Naturally, we asked to search under "Laurel" and I was surprised to find a reference to him and a "puppet government" in the Philippines. I asked if this heading or key word was found in the original. I was told that some of the terms were supplied by the Americans, thus reflecting their view or their interpretation of Philippine history.

I have always been wary of the terms "puppet government" and "collaborator" which are used mindlessly in our school textbooks, despite the unsettled debate on whether the "collaboration" with Japan in those dark days was done out of conviction or necessity. As you can see, documents by themselves say something, but the editorializing and interpretation come from the historian.

When we asked to see the records on the "comfort women," we were surprised to find very little material. Dr. Rico Jose, the authority on the Japanese period in our history, said that there was a lot of material available in the archives, but this was not reflected in the JACAHR website. Perhaps we were not asking the correct keywords? For example, the entries important to Filipino historians are listed under the heading "philippine" which is a transliteration of the Japanese word for our country; if you make the "mistake" of entering a search under "Philippines" with an "s", you will probably be told no records exist on this topic.

When I remarked on this, I was told that the search words were determined by archivists, not by historians, and that JACAHR would welcome our suggestions.

I guess no archival system, no matter how well-funded and sophisticated, can be perfect but then this is much better than anything we have at the moment. It makes Filipino historians dream of a time when we can access Philippine records on the Net whether these be held in Manila, Washington, Madrid or Tokyo.

The world is indeed becoming a smaller place because of the Internet. We can only hope that more people will use what is available to study the past and gain perspective for the present and the future.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Joseph the father

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I BOUGHT THE DEC. 19, 2005, ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE, attracted by the cover's blurb: "The Best Photos of 2005." The photographs were a powerful way to synthesize a turbulent year, yet in the end, the issue's best picture was actually an early 18th-century painting from Peru, entitled "St. Joseph and the Child Jesus."

The painting, by an unknown artist, is very masculine with its solid dark colors, yet it touches the viewer in the way Joseph carries the Child Jesus, and in the way the child clings to his father with his two hands.

The painting was there to accompany an article, "Father and Child," by David Van Biema, focusing on a revival of interest in the "hidden virtues" of St. Joseph. I looked up that Time article again last Sunday, March 19, St. Joseph's feast day.

Stand-in

Joseph is actually almost invisible in the New Testament, almost like a substitute or stand-in actor, waiting to play a bit role. He is silent, without a single quote attributed to him. He figures only in Jesus' early years, disappearing when Jesus turns 12 and acknowledges his heavenly Father.

Now there's renewed interest in Joseph and, surprisingly, this comes from the Protestants, who don't usually give that much attention to saints. Van Biema explains how Presbyterian minister Howard Edington, mourning the death of an adopted son, went headlong into writing a book about Jesus' adoptive father. The product, "The Forgotten Man of Christmas: Joseph's Story," was published in 2000, based on extensive research into the Bible as well as non-biblical sources.

Joseph also plays a lead role in a religious novel, "Holding Heaven," by Jerry Jenkins, author of the apocalyptic "Left Behind" series. On a more secular front, Anne Rice's latest best-seller, "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt," gives Joseph a revitalized role, guiding the pregnant Mary to Egypt to escape Herod.

Courage

Ironically, it is the lack of biblical information about Joseph that allows writers, religious or secular, to create and recreate him in different forms, according to the needs of the times.

A 2nd-century text, called "The Protoevangelium of James," glorifies Joseph's role as a "chaste caretaker." When you think of the circumstances here, we should probably add "courageous" to the description of Joseph. We have to remember Mary was probably a controversial figure: pregnant, very young (probably 14 or 15) and unmarried. The "Protoevangelium" describes Joseph's own reluctance when asked, in his own version of an Annunciation, to care for Mary.

The "Protoevangelium" depicts Joseph as a very old man, with children from a previous marriage. On one hand, that depiction was probably meant to emphasize he couldn't have been the one who got Mary pregnant. On the other hand, the "Protoevangelium" describes doubts, maybe suspicions of Joseph as a dirty old man. When this May-December couple shows up at the temple for their betrothal, the high priest supposedly subjects them to a trial by ordeal, drinking a "drink of conviction": if one of them had been lying about the pregnant Mary's virginity, they would have died from the drink. The "Protoevangelium" has Mary and Joseph surviving, of course, since the early Church needed to emphasize female chastity.

Joseph was to remain invisible for the next few centuries, until the 14th century, when he was rehabilitated, as a younger man, into a more involved father. This was at a time when Europe was going through famine, war and an epidemic. Social institutions, especially the family, were threatened, so the reemergence of Joseph, this time to head a Holy Family, was convenient.

Van Biema analyzes the current revival of interest in Joseph against a backdrop of religion in America. Joseph's important again for evangelical Christians, as they seek ways to "masculinize" religion: convincing more males to attend church services, and finding ways to allow male bonding, similar to that of Joseph and Jesus, in churches.

Catholic or Protestant, our religious leaders might want to look at how they might recruit St. Joseph to handle some problems in 21st-century Filipino society.

In macho societies like our own, fatherhood is seen mainly as a biological act, which is in turn closely linked to notions of masculinity. In the Philippines, men don't think twice about boasting that they have five children, "*lahat panganay*" (all eldest), meaning the children were sired with different women.

The boasting will often include claims that they're not supporting the children, that they were able to sow their wild oats and get away with it, free of any responsibility to the woman he impregnated, and to the product(s) of that liaison.

Still another perverse variation on these drinking session stories is how they were able to impregnate a married woman, so that it's another male, the cuckolded one, who has to take the responsibility for raising the child.

Act of faith

Yet when you look hard at Filipino machismo, you'll find there's a strong undercurrent of insecurity, especially around fatherhood. Motherhood, after all, is said to be an act of knowledge, while fatherhood is an act of faith. Put another way, women know who their children are, men can only believe the children are his. Traditionally, a child resembling the neighbor could be explained away as part of *paglilihi*, meaning the mother had stared too hard at the neighbor while she was pregnant. Paternal angst has grown in this age of overseas workers, as men leave their wives behind for a year or two.

Because of the traditional values that encourage men to abscond after getting a woman pregnant, other men will come into the picture, challenged to accept a woman and offspring from other relationships. There are good men like St. Joseph all around us, who won't ask for a DNA test to validate paternity. I know one man, who works as a government clerk, raising four children, only one of whom is his own biological offspring. The other three are his common-law wife's, from previous relationships. I have never seen him favoring his own biological child over the others.

I would like to think there are many more like him, but I know too of stories where a cuckolded husband takes out his rage, day after day, on the child produced from the adulterous affair. And we know, too, of the statistics around child sexual abuse, where many cases involve a stepfather as an offender, rationalizing that he has sexual rights over his stepchildren because he has to support them.

Religious leaders will need to find ways to get St. Joseph to help deal with these problems. The messages can revolve around the theme of a *tunay na lalake* or "true male." A true male chooses to be a father. A true male, like St. Joseph, becomes more male when he learns to go beyond biology to care for children, not his, and yet, eventually, his.

Hunt for Red partisans and Chinese investors

I AM A NATIONALIST, NOT A COMMUNIST. But I am amused by the ongoing anti-communist witch-hunt being orchestrated by the Arroyo administration. It is reminiscent of a dreaded era of the late US Sen. Joseph McCarthy, especially in the context of an all-out effort to deflect public attention from the perceived illegitimacy of the Arroyo administration.

Under globalization, of which President Macapagal-Arroyo is the local enforcer of World Bank-International Monetary Fund debt conditions, the model setup is a communist government and a market economy. Thus China, which exemplifies the unusual combination, is the unrivalled destination of transnational investments today, making that country the fastest-growing economy in the world. China is now rated as the world's third largest economy, outranking Germany, Europe's largest. In fact, the United States, which is turning into a post-industrial society, has practically moved over its manufacturing base to China.

As the overseer of globalization in our country, Ms Arroyo, together with her family (including a grandchild and her *yaya*), went on a pilgrimage to Beijing last year to invite China to invest in the Philippines. As a result, China is now building the controversial NorthRail project. Chinese mining concerns are now busy prospecting for minerals here, especially oil in the Spratlys.

In other words, while the Arroyo administration is on a noisy anti-communist witch-hunt, it is at the same time earnestly begging Beijing, the capital of the world's largest communist country, to help breathe life into our economy. How can Ms Arroyo go on a witch-hunt for local communists while increasingly depending on the communist regime in China for investments?

—AMADAO GAT INCIONG,
Unit 301 Union Square Condominium,
145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Graveyard of dictators

COLUMNIST BELINDA AQUINO'S "DICtators come and go" (PDI, 3/8/06) is food for thought.

History has been a graveyard of dictators who rose to power and died in exile (e.g., the Shah of Iran, Idi Amin of Uganda and Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines).

The United States has a track record of supporting Latin American, African and Asian dictators who were pawns during the Cold War.

The aftereffects are still there if we look around. International relations, fluid and changing constantly, also aid and abet dictators. Hence, "dictators never die" as said correctly by the columnist.

—VALENTINE ANTHONY,
Sinphil HRMS International Inc.,
Session Road, Baguio City.

A soldier's right to free speech

I WAS TAKEN ABACK WHEN I HEARD the defense secretary say something like this: Because the government vests a soldier with the power to wield firearms, he should surrender his right to free speech.

I expected to hear instead something like this: "Someone who is given the right to bear arms has the corresponding duty to use it responsibly (i.e., defend his country from aggressors, go after lawless elements, protect the lives and property of civilians, etc.) as opposed to the idea of using it for extortion, harassment or vengeance.

Never have I heard that the granting of a right entails the loss of other rights. Why should a soldier lose his right to free speech just because he has a weapon? He still remains a citizen, equal to the others, and may voice his legitimate grievances. Of course, he will have to be tactful in airing complaints against his superiors. For serious injustices, he should be able to file a case just like Juan de la Cruz.

And his complaints do not even have to be always political. For example, can he not rightfully complain of lack of logistical support, or of insufficient income to support a family, or of inhumane conditions in the barracks, or of scanty pensions? Does he have to keep quiet about his concerns just because he has a weapon?

If we accept such logic, then the soldiers would be no different from fanatical fighters who blindly follow orders

But Lt. Col. Luisito Marcelino, who replaced Col. Ariel Querubin, himself addressed the Marines under him: "If I order you to march to Edsa, do not follow me!" (PDI, 3/2/06) This means that soldiers should keep their common sense and obey just the legitimate orders.

Aside from holding a lofty position in the Cabinet, which demands a high degree of competence, the defense secretary is also a lawyer. I therefore expect his arguments to be more logical and rational.

—ERIK N. SANTOS,
G-118 Bay Homes Subdivision,
Parañaque City

Cory's secure legacy

DURING THE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY in Makati last Feb. 24, Ms Corazon Aquino said she neither claims to be an icon of People Power nor thinks of herself as one. Instead, she said, all of us, Filipinos, are icons of People Power. I beg to disagree with her.

If there is one enduring symbol of People Power, it is Cory.

People Power was a glorious moment for Filipinos. From there, Ms Aquino emerged as the darling of the international community and the world press and, most of all, our President and national pride.

But shortly thereafter, people sought to unseat her. She refused to be cowed into submission and valiantly defied the threats. In the end, she kept her seat and finished her term, but at great cost to our nation. Soldiers died and, perhaps, thousands of ordinary citizens also died of poverty, the indirect result of the economic crisis made worse by the combination of bloody coup attempts, a power crisis and a failed agrarian reform program.

The Aquino presidency may not have been a great one. The change that everybody was expecting did not come. In short, we were disillusioned. It was a rude awakening for most of us, but we stuck by our President. She was not bullied into making the extreme sacrifice of resigning just to appease those who opposed her. She served a transitory purpose and we knew how important it was that she finish her term. It would have been disastrous for democracy if she did not finish it. We could have fallen into anarchy.

What I do not understand is why Ms Aquino can't give Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the same support; why she is allowing herself to be used by the same people who tried to unseat her; and why she is now associating herself with a former president who, five years ago, she thought was not fit to be president. And I wonder: after President Arroyo is gone, would Ms Aquino also regret having demanded the former's resignation and then join hands with her to seek the ouster of the succeeding president? So, when will this madness end? And when can we finally move forward?

Ms Aquino should examine her ways. They may have worked wonders in 1986, but are they the right things to do now?

What we need are new ideas, new ways to effect change. People Power worked great 20 years ago. But as we have seen in 2001, a second People Power weakened our democratic institutions. Doing it a third (or some may argue, a fourth) time might just throw our country into chaos.

People saw the irony on the 20th anniversary of Edsa I when Filipinos could not assemble freely and a state of emergency was declared. I think the greatest irony that day was Ms Aquino, the icon of People Power, willing to gamble the gains of People Power by aligning herself with power-hungry people.

Ms Aquino will forever be our People Power President. Her legacy is secure. She shouldn't mess with it.

—CHRIS CABILI BAUTISTA,
46 N. Domingo St., Quezon City

No interest in rising prices

MANUEL ALMARIO IS WRONG IN SAYING that because of the value added tax, the government has a vested interest in rising prices. (PDI, 2/28/06) He explains, "the higher the prices are of gasoline, cooking gas, electricity, water, food and services, the more taxes it collects. And the VAT is paid by the ultimate consumer."

It is true that when the price of a product increases, the government gets to collect more taxes on that product. However, higher prices can also lead to consumers buying less (assuming that the consumers are price sensitive). Therefore, the tax gains expected from higher prices may be offset by less sales. In short, rising prices will not increase VAT collection and may even reduce it.

Consider also that the poor typically do not engage in "discretionary spending." The poor will always spend the same amount regardless of the price of goods. Therefore, VAT collection from the poor will not be affected by the price of goods. On the other hand, the rich bend toward discretionary spending. The amount they spend depends on the price of goods. The lower the price, the more they buy; and the higher the price, the less they buy.

Therefore, there is no benefit when prices rise, while there is everything to gain when they fall.

One last note, rising prices result in inflation. High inflation is not good for the economy and is felt mostly by the poor. As such, there is no reason for the government to want rising prices.

—OLIVER PACIFICO,
oliver.pacifico@verizon.net

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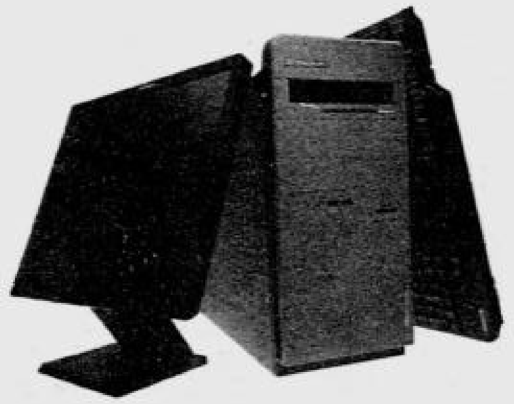

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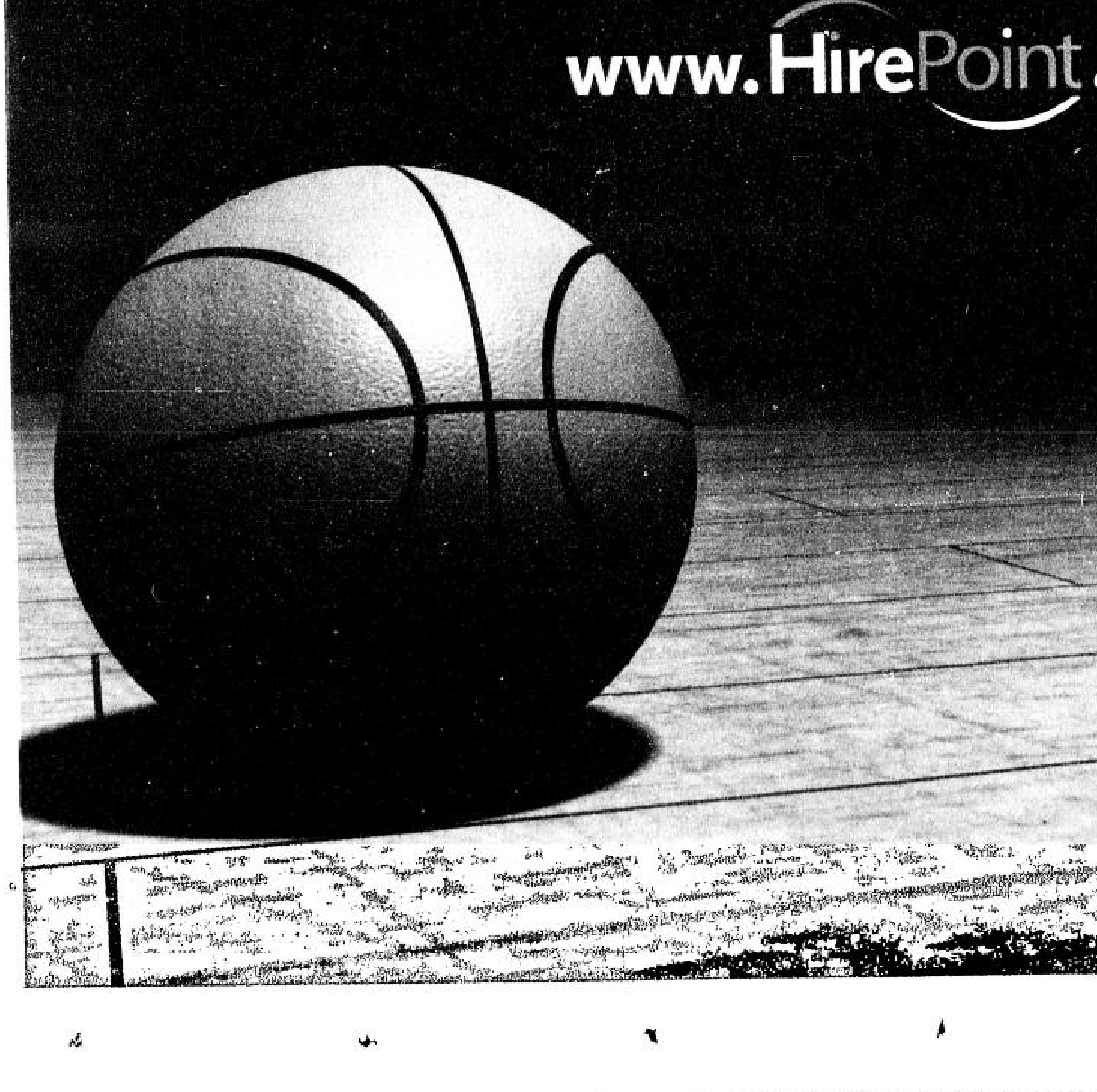

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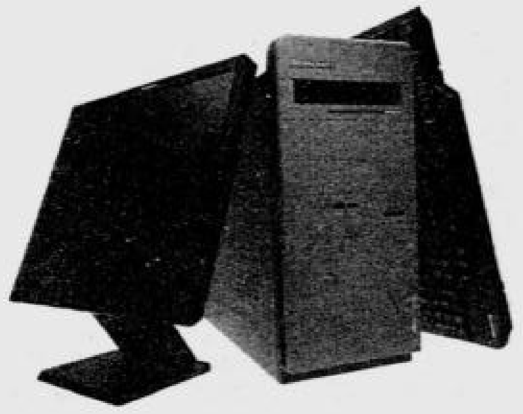

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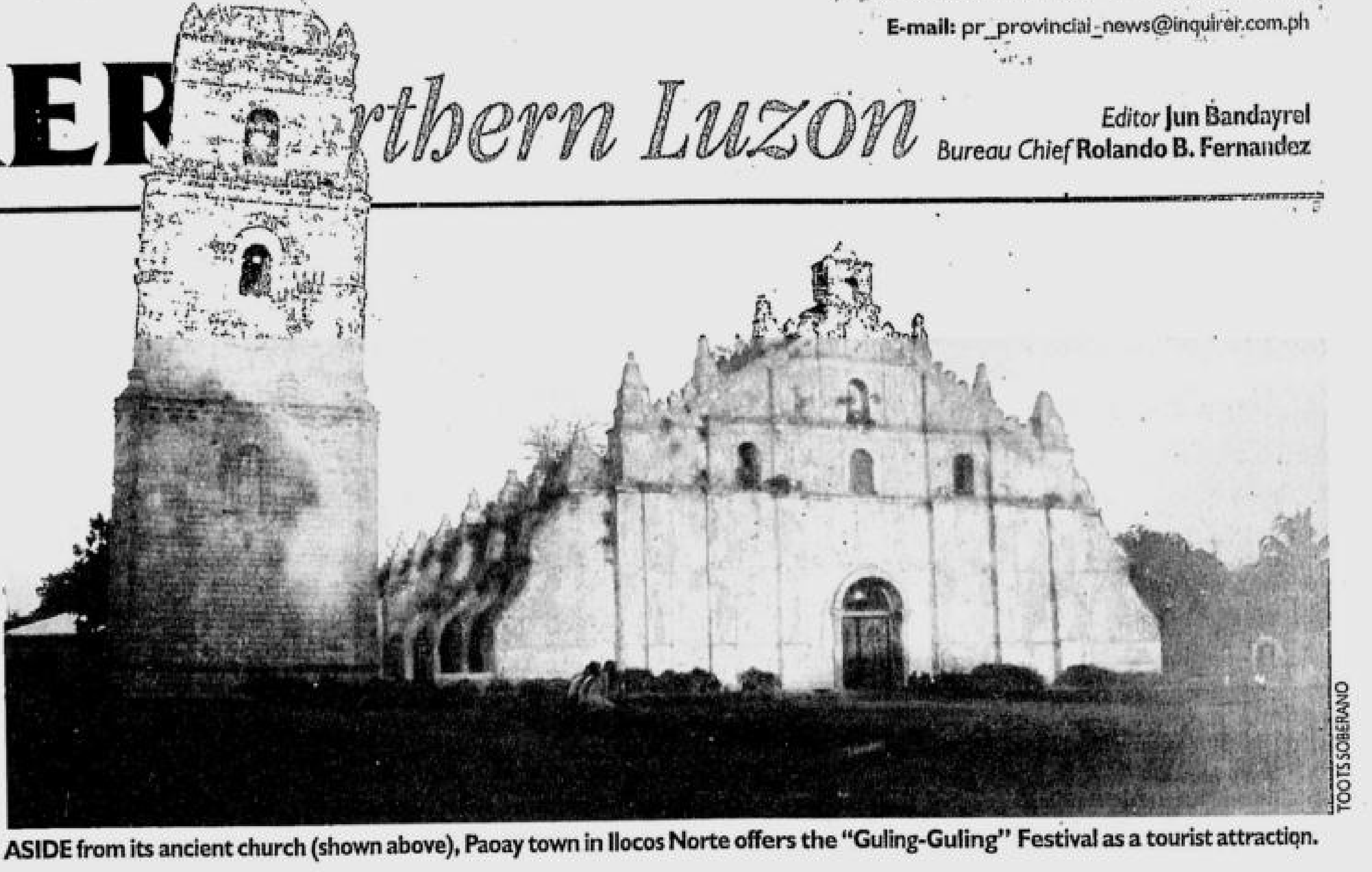
'Guling-Guling' teaches youth traditions, values


TOOTS SOBERANO

ASIDE from its ancient church (shown above), Paoay town in Ilocos Norte offers the "Guling-Guling" Festival as a tourist attraction.

By Cristina Arzadon
Paoay, Ilocos Norte

IT WAS NO ORDINARY DAY FOR RESIDENTS OF PAOAY, ILOCOS Norte, on Feb. 28. After all, it was the last day of merrymaking before the Catholic faithful entered the Lenten season of sacrifice.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

The people usually take to the streets, enjoying the last day of earthly pleasures, before the 40-day observance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice starts.

The Guling-Guling Festival, traditionally held the day before Ash Wednesday when Catholics officially mark fasting and penitence, is a day of merrymaking and street dancing for Paoay folk.

For Placida Cacayorin, 88, the festival is also a time when the elderly can infuse the values of tradition with the young.

"We take pride in our culture and we want the young to continue this tradition while we reach the sunset of our lives," Cacayorin said.

"Guling-guling" means to smear on one's forehead the Sign of the Cross, using ashes from burnt leaves. Instead of lining before a priest, however, Paoay villagers receive the imprint made from a wet, white rice flour called the "*bellaay*" from the town mayor.

Former Councilor Eisenhower Adaza got up earlier than usual and supervised the digging of three holes, locally known as the "*anawang*," on the front yard of his house. *Anawang* is an improvised oven traditionally used to heat up a large pot of the "*bennal*" (sugarcane extract), which would turn to molasses when cooked.

3-chamber oven

The oven has three chambers—firewood is fed in one, a large cooking pan (locally known as the "*siliasi*") is heated in the middle, and the vent is the last.

"This was how our forebears cooked in the olden days. This is also an opportunity to show our children how it was in the beginning," Adaza said.

Paoay remains an agricultural town. Sugarcane farming continues to create livelihood among residents. Sugarcane extract is the basic component of the popular Ilocano *basi* and vinegar, and the native cake "*dudol*."

Adaza's house was among seven designated areas where the "*dudol*" (local version of the *maja blanca*) was prepared. The *dudol*, made of sugarcane extract, coconut milk and rice, is normally given to the festival crowd.

It took four hours for Adaza and three others to cook a large pan of the *dudol*. Cooking the native cake demands constant stirring once the mix starts to boil, to prevent it from being overcooked or burned.

Cultural preservation

Seven large *dudol* pots were prepared at various points around town and offered to visitors taking part in the street dancing during the parade. The route began at a remote village in the western section and ended at the plaza.

Mayor Bonifacio Clemente said the festival was also the community's contribution to cultural preservation. "This is our modest way of showing how the community can make use of its heritage to propel development," he said.

Before the street dancing, more than a dozen "*ulnas*" or dressed-up carabao-drawn carriages paraded on the streets.

Clemente said the activity was the town's symbol of paying homage to farmers and the beast of burden for their contribution to food production and rural development. "Many of our farmers have abandoned the fields because of the rising costs of farm inputs. This is our tribute to those who continue to till the earth," he said.

Festival organizers also saw an opportunity to introduce to tourists newly built facilities around town, mindful of the droves of local and international travelers heading toward the North during the summer season.

Paoay Church

Paoay is the home of the world-renowned Paoay Church. It took the town several years, however, to capitalize on the religious icon and attract investors to put up structures in accordance with the demands of tourism.

Right across the church is the Herencia de Paoay, a restaurant sitting on a spacious ground complete with a fountain and mini-park, where tourists can view the church.

The structure also houses souvenir shops where the town's famous *inabel* (handwoven Ilocano cloth) and other products are sold.

A bed-and-breakfast hotel, right across the town hall, is set to open for business in May, in time for the fiesta to catch the spillover of vacationers.

Cycling champ pedals to fish farming

By Ben Moses Ebreo
Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya

HIS FIRST LOVE came during his struggling days of cycling, but he landed on his second love—fish farming.

At the peak of his cycling career, Lupo Alava, 47, never thought of being in the fishpond business although he was a graduate of agriculture, raising *tilapia* and supplying people in Nueva Vizcaya with nutritious products.

Alava, the Rookie of the Year in the 1980 Marlboro Tour ng Pilipinas, participated in the annual cycling series from 1980 to 1985, and gained popularity nationwide.

He left the rigorous cycling event in 1985, got married and decided to develop a 1,000-sqm lot at Sitio Balite in Barangay Namamparan, Diadi town, upon his wife's advice. The couple has three children.

"It is where I got an interest and encouragement in fish farming because I have been observing that (it is) ... more profitable than other kinds of farming," he said.

Alava, however, has kept a symbol of his career in putting up a bike shop named after him in Diadi.

Fish kill

Starting a fishpond venture was not easy. He experienced a fish kill due to overstocking, forcing him to attend seminars and trainings conducted by local fishery experts.

His first harvest convinced him to concentrate on the business. Slowly, he developed his main farm from another lot he inherited from his grandparents in 2003 in Barangay Villa Coloma in Diadi.

The five-hectare, irrigation-fed fish farm also has a small impounding area that serves nearby rice fields owned by other villagers. It has eight ponds with a size of 23,350 sqm each.

Alava harvests fish in four to five months. At most, his yield is eight tons per pond which he sells at a farmgate price of P58 a kilo.

"Fish farming is good. I even spend more hours here than in my bicycle center business. My full attention is here," he said.

Being the largest producer of *tilapia* in the province, Alava is now developing a fish hatchery. Most fish farmers get their fish supply from the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija and in Isabela, he noted.

Love for cycling

Alava said his love for cycling remained. Every weekend, he spends time on the road from Bagabag town in Nueva Vizcaya to Lagawe town in Ifugao or to Santiago City in Isabela.

He founded cycling and mountain biking clubs in Diadi to help and support local enthusiasts, along with other cycling sensations Domingo Quilban (now a retired police officer), Ariel Maraña, (who is based in the United States) and Carlo Guieb (manager of a jeepney business).

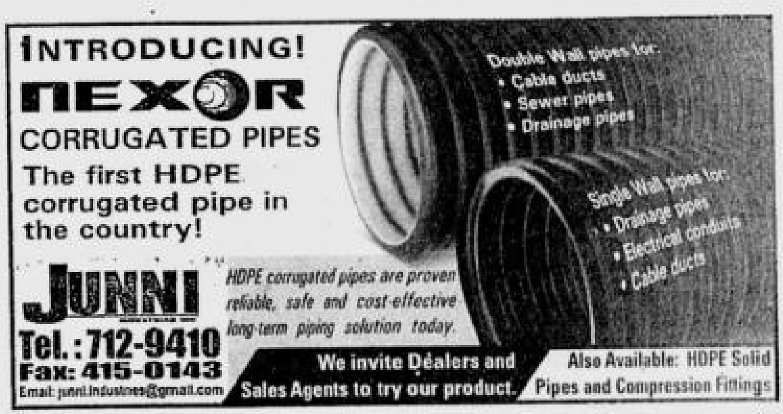
Alava has outlets for his fish products in Villaverde, Solano, Bayombong, Bambang and his hometown Bagabag in Nueva Vizcaya, Lamut town in Ifugao, and Santiago.

Many people want to go into fish farming but big capital is needed since it entails expenditures from pond preparation and management, he said.

Depending on the size of the ponds, a farmer uses up at least eight bags of feeds per 1,000 fingerlings for the whole season. Alava said he was spending P5,000 daily for feeds. He employs six workers and hires seven others for distribution.

Officials of the provincial agriculture office said Alava's fish products have improved the local fish sufficiency level by 15 percent.

Last year, Alava was named outstanding fisherman (fish category) by the Gawad-Saka Awards search for outstanding agricultural achievers.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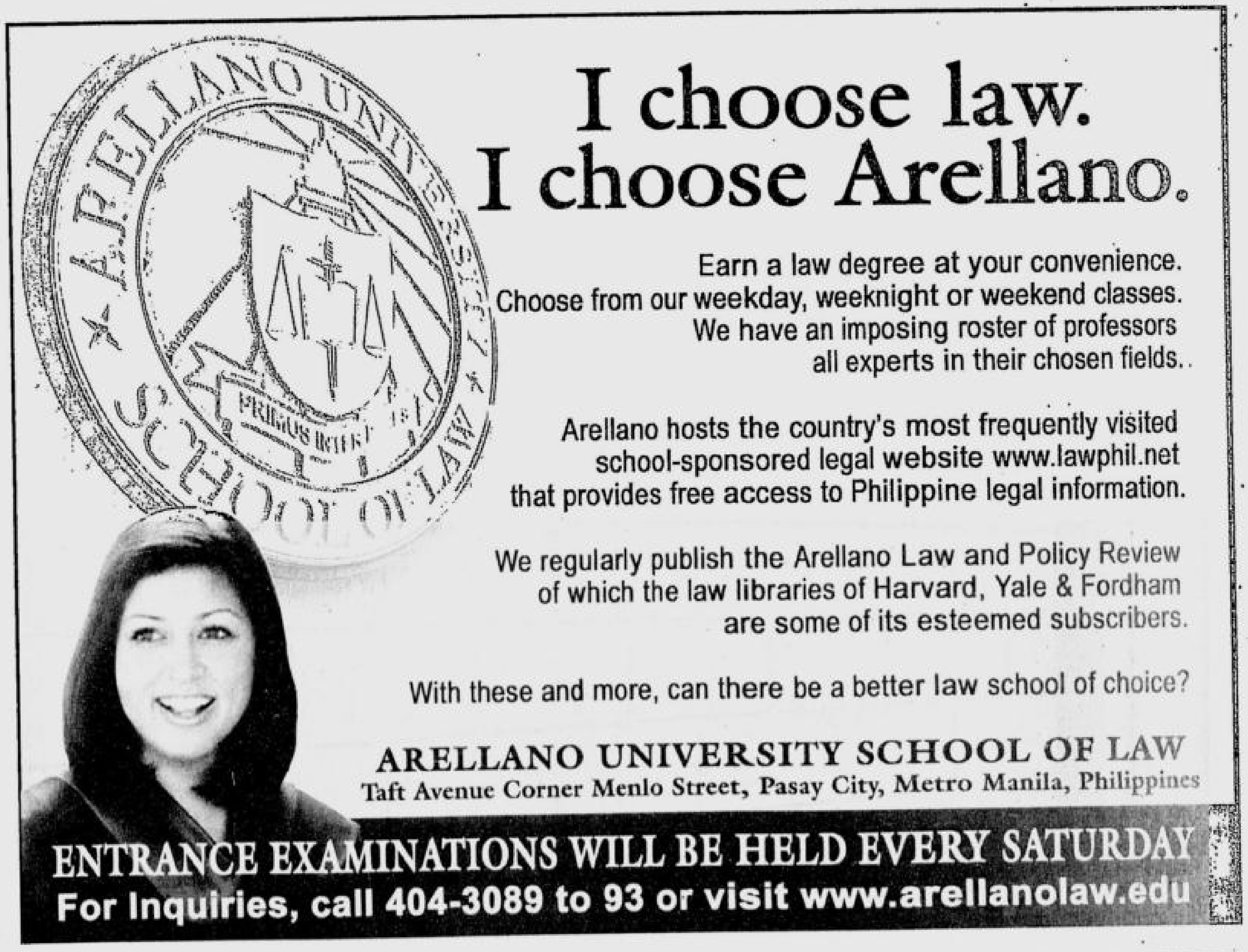
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'We won't allow ourselves to be arrested'

CALAMBA CITY—FORMER SENATOR AND RETIRED Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and his co-accused in the rebellion charges filed by the government for the short-lived July 2003 Oakwood mutiny won't allow themselves to be arrested by authorities, one of his co-accused said yesterday.

Ernesto Macahiya, spokesman of the Honasan-led Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), said he was in constant communication with the former lawmaker who was named by the government as the brains behind the alleged coup plot to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The INQUIRER was able to talk to Macahiya on his mobile phone.

Citing security reasons, he was at first hesitant to take the call.

"We will fight it out with the government in the courts. But we have no intention of being arrested ... We are innocent of the charges filed against us," Macahiya said.

He said he had already instructed his lawyer, Victor Lansing, to counter the charges and file documents, saying he had "good legal grounds to defend myself."

He then questioned the real intention of the arrest warrant which, he noted, was released at the height of Ms Arroyo's declaration of Presidential Proclamation 1017.

Macahiya, like Honasan and their other co-accused, went into hiding immediately after a Makati City Regional Trial Court judge ordered their arrest last week.

The two—together with retired Col. Virgilio Briones, Col. Romeo Lazo, Capt. Felix Turingan and Honasan's staff members George Duldulao and Lina Reyes--were charged with conspiring with the junior officers who took over the posh Oakwood apartment-hotel in Makati City to press for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

Over 100 members of the 500,000-strong PGBI, who trooped to the Oakwood, were later identified by the government as the "civilian component" of the failed mutiny.

The Department of Justice likewise filed a coup d'etat charge against Honasan last Feb. 24, moments after the President declared a state of national emergency.

"The timing is very questionable. They want to pin down Greg (Honasan) on old, trumped-up charges. They want to link us to the so-called new coup plot," Macahiya lamented.

He said their camp has filed several motions that asked the Department of Justice to immediately act on the rebellion charges against them.

He said despite that, the cases had been disregarded and unnoticed at the DOJ until the recent coup rumors surfaced.

He, however, dismissed the option of arming themselves to resist arrest.

"We will still abide by our Constitution and continue our resolve to effect changes through non-violent means," he said.

Macahiya then belittled the intelligence operatives of the Philippine National Police for continuously describing him as a retired colonel.

He said he was never part of any military or police organization.

Macahiya was, in fact, a former leftist leader and a member of the old communist party headed by the late Jose Lava. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

HONASAN

Onion prices high, but farmers lack supply

CABANATUAN CITY—THE CURRENT farm gate price of onions ranges from P30 to P35 a kilogram, which farmers considered to be high.

In the past, the price ranged from P4 to P8 a kg at this time of the year. Farmers said the buying price of P8 a kg is considered good as producers can already earn enough from this price.

But the problem is that local onion farmers do not have enough onion bulbs to sell this harvest season as rains and flash floods during the last week of January destroyed their crops.

Validation and data collection reports received by provincial agriculturist Serafin Santos showed that of the more than 10,000 hectares planted with onion this cropping season, only 6,282 hectares remained with standing crops after the rains and floods early this year.

A few days after the devastation, crop experts said the usual good harvest could not be expected because the surviving plants were weakened.

The reports indicated that the total production output would only reach about 62,000 metric tons of onions of the yellow grannex, red creole and "tanduyong" varieties.

This estimated volume is not even half of the usual 140,000 to 170,000 metric tons of harvest in Nueva Ecija during good weather, farmers and agriculture officials said.

Onion farmers contacted by the INQUIRER said their margin of profit was small even at the current farm gate prices because their output went down and they spent more money for production expenses.

During good weather, farmers usually spend P65,000 to P70,000 per hectare for farm inputs and labor costs.

"The buying price is really very high but we don't have much harvest to sell," said a farmer.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) has issued permits to at least four companies to import onions. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DPWH blames rebels for road plan delays

LUCENA CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways has finally admitted that the New People's Army's imposition of revolutionary taxes on road contractors has further delayed the completion of a P616-million road project in Quezon.

Engineer Virgilio Castillo, DPWH official assigned to the project, made the admission before an inquiry of the provincial council on Monday on the delay of the road project initiated by Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes way back in 1998 during the term of former President Estrada.

The proposed 54.5 km circumferential road project, initially valued at P616 million, will pass through the towns of Lucban, Tayabas, Mauban and Sampaloc.

Castillo said the first contractor, China Harbour Engineering Company, one of the biggest Chinese-owned construction firms, backed out of the project due to the "peace and order" problem and delayed payment for the completed portion of the project.

"Based on the report that we received, the contractor cited as main reason the peace and order problem," Castillo explained.

He said the next contractor, Makati Development Corp., also cited the same problems when it decided not to finish the project.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one of the DPWH officials present admitted to the INQUIRER that the NPA's imposition of the revolutionary tax had forced the two contractors to give up the projects.

"The NPA demand was too high and the threat of destruction of heavy equipments plus the safety of the personnel is not guaranteed, no contractor will surely stay to finish the project," the informant said.

However, Representative Nantes denied that the rebel's imposition of the revolutionary tax was the main reason for the delay on the completion of the circumferential road project. *Delfin Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

3 killed by wayward truck

ROXAS CITY—A woman, her 3-year-old son and their neighbor were killed by a wayward cargo truck Monday morning in Barangay Tiza, this city. The young Robinson Barolo died on the spot while his mother Jean, 39, and neighbor Maribel Flores, 25, all of 6th Block Malipayon Village, Barangay Tiza, died later at the Saint Anthony College Hospital. The truck driver, Mariano Condez, of Aguiling Plain Subdivision in Barangay Mongpong, surrendered to police. Investigators said Condez lost control of the Hino truck, which was loaded with cases of beer, while it was negotiating a hilly road in Barangay Milibili. The victims were standing beside the road and did not notice the approaching truck. The truck first hit a tree but it was not enough to stop it. Its owner offered the families of the victims P50,000 each. The victims' families also asked the truck owner to shoulder the funeral expenses. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Firecracker hurts 4 studes

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Four student athletes were hurt when a firecracker misfired and hit them during the opening ceremonies of the Ilocos Region Athletic Association (IRAA) meet here on Monday. Police said a lighted *kwitis* (skyrocket) hit the group of Grace Aquino, 16; Noela Jane Mendoza, 14; Juanito Gamay Jr., 12; and Joanne Agne, 14; while they were watching the lighting of the IRAA friendship urn. Reports said the sparks from the exploding firecracker hit Aquino in the nape and right ear, Gamay in the chest and Agne in the left eye. A team from the Philippine National Red Cross gave them first aid treatment before they were taken to a hospital. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Security exec, prof killed

COTABATO CITY—A security agency manager and a college professor were separately killed here Monday night. Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, police station 2 chief, identified the first victim as Marie Polinario, 40, a professor of the University of Mindanao-Cotabato College. Obatay said the victim was heading for home from the office in a jeep when one of the passengers pulled a gun and shot her. An hour later, Rolando Mendoza, manager of Heaven Security Agency, was shot dead by still unidentified gunmen along De Mazenod Avenue. Police said Mendoza was sending text messages to a friend when two men approached him from behind and shot him in the head. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Free phone lines for cops

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Bayan Telecommunications (Bayantel) has provided free telephone lines to at least six police precincts here and another one for the office of the city police director to help authorities become more efficient in maintaining peace and order. Rey Burgos, head of Bayantel's Customer Access Network, said providing free telephone connection to the city police is part of the company's effort to fulfill its corporate social responsibility. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

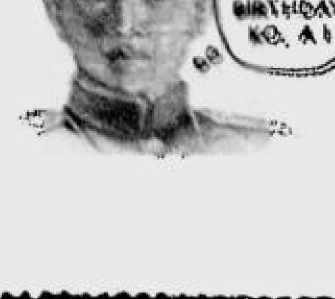
HELLO ... Thank, You.

NPA couple yields

LUCENA CITY—A couple, both allegedly ranking members of the communist New People's Army operating in Oriental Mindoro, surrendered to the government over the weekend, the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar announced. Solcom chief Lt. General Pedro Cabuay Jr. identified the couple rebel returnees as Genesis "Ka Sebastian" Castillo 25, and Sharon "Ka Maureen" Matibag, 23. Both were included in the military's order of battle. The military report said Castillo was a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA provincial committee and political officer of the NPA armed propaganda squad in the Bulalacao-Mansalay area. Matibag was identified as the logistics officer of the CPP-NPA in Oriental Mindoro. The report added that the couple's surrender was facilitated by the joint operation of the Army's 68th Infantry Battalion intelligence operatives under First Lt. Christian Cabading and the Joint AFP-PNP Civil Relation Company based in Mindoro. *Delfin Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Aguinaldo birthday today

THE 137th birth anniversary of General Emilio Aguinaldo, president of the First Philippine Republic, will be commemorated today during rites at his mansion in Kawit, Cavite. A civic parade, flag raising and wreath-offering have been lined up for the day. The parade starts at 7 a.m. at the Josephine's Restaurant in Panamitan, Kawit and end at the Aguinaldo Shrine, according to a news release.


WOW! ENGRANDE ANG SELEBRASYON SA BIRTHDAY KO. A!

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNOC
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 • Fax 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project.

TWO (2) YEAR RENTAL OF 3 UNITS PASSENGER VAN FOR BACMAN GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION FIELD (BGPF)
EDC 06-011

The Approved Budget is **PhP 5,940,000.00** to be charged against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is Two (2) years.

Application forms for eligibility and the bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, Fort Bonifacio (c/o N. P. Calling) and PNOC-EDC/BGPF, Bonga Sorsogon (c/o M. G. R. Yrureta) starting **March 22, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Five Hundred (PhP 500.00)**.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **April 6, 2006, 2:30 p.m. at PNOC-EDC BGPF, Bonga, Sorsogon.** Site inspection will follow thereafter

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Building 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. on April 19, 2006 (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time)** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) FRANCIS M. DOLOR
BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 22 & 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2006-003-g

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE INTENDED FOR THE PHILHEALTH HEAD OFFICE

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2005, intends to apply the sum of **PhP 33,420,000.00 per annum for 2 years** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Lease of Office Space Intended for the PhilHealth Head Office. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from duly licensed companies or business firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the said procurement with the following specifications:

Location
The location of the building shall be within a one (1) kilometer radius from the Rizal Capitol Building and shall entail minimal relocation cost.

The area should not be prone to flooding.

Space Requirement
The total space requirement (rentable) is at least 11,000 sq. m.

Parking Requirement
The bidder should provide one (1) parking space for every 130 sq. m. of space to be occupied/rented by PhilHealth.

Period of the Contract
The term of the Contract shall be for a period of Two (2) years.

CY 2004 to CY 2005 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required to be submitted by PhilHealth.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) to be determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Interested Bidders may purchase a complete set of Bidding Documents from March 16 to 28, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **PhP 10,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **March 29, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room** on or before **April 12, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room**. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **April 12, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process,and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
Mr. Joseph O. Vergara
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Blvd, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
E-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) Atty. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
***Chairperson,** Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services*

(PDI - March 15 & 22, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Zamboanga City Water District**, through its Bids and Awards Committee II (BAC II), invites to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project

Name of Project	Lot 1 & 2 Tulungatung Production Well, Lot 3: Presa Mayor Production Well
Location	Lot 1 & 2: Barangay Tulungatung & Lot 3: Presa Mayor, Barangay Tumaga
Brief Description	Lot 1: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 12 Hp Submersible Pump & Discharge Pippings; Lot 2: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 75Ømm Electro-Magnetic Flowmeter & Integrated GSM Data Logger; Lot 3: Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 54 KVA Rated Standby Generating Unit
Purchase Requisition Nos.	Lot 1: PR No. 8822, Lot 2: PR No. 8823 & Lot 3: PR No. 8838
Approved Budget for the Contract	Lot 1: P535,584.00, Lot 2: P392,000.00 & Lot 3: P1,030,400.00
Delivery Period	Lot 1 & 2: 60 Calendar Days, Lot 3: ,75 Calendar Days

Prospective Bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examinations of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

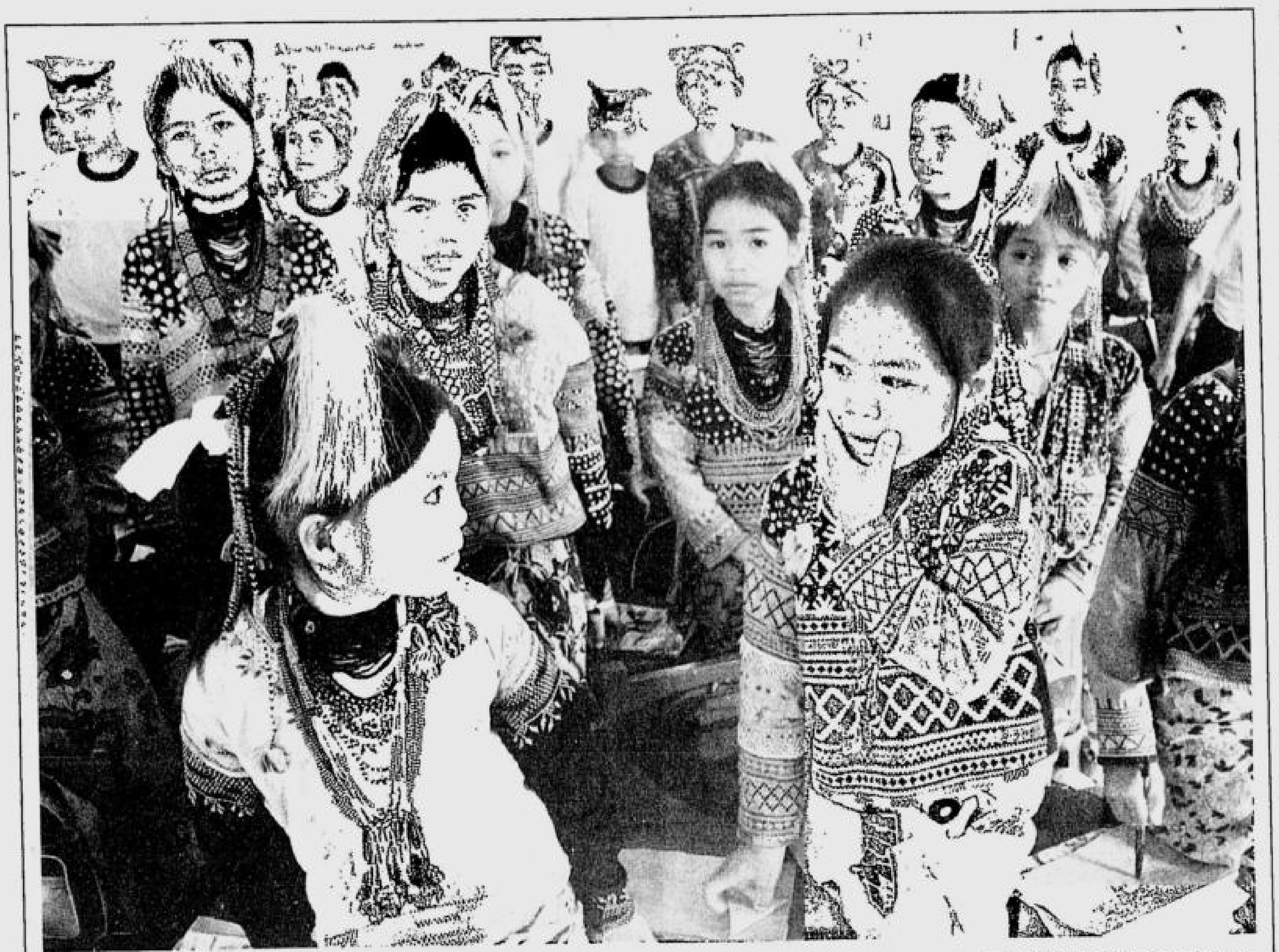
ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 21 to March 28, 2006
2. Prebid Conference	March 29, 2006
3. Opening of Bids	April 10, 2006
4. Bid Evaluation	April 17, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	April 20, 2006
6. Notice of Award	April 27, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable in the following amount for, Lot 1 & 2: P500.00/lot while Lot 3: P1,000.00, to the Zamboanga City Water District Cashier

The Zamboanga City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ALEJO S. ROJAS, JR.
BAC II CHAIRMAN

(PDI - March 22, 2006)



DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

MAKING FACES
Two girls belonging to the Tagkaulo tribe of Malita, Davao del Sur appear to be amazed at each other's faces as they start classes being held by the Department of Education in their village.

DAR prepares to take over co-op property over ₱17-M loan

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BULA, CAMARINES SUR—THE Department of Agrarian Reform is preparing to take over a 460-hectare property of an agrarian reform community that has been organized into a cooperative, according to a government lawyer.

Ramon SG. Cabañes Jr., DAR-Camarines Sur legal division chief, said the Pecuaria Development Cooperative Inc. (PDCI), composed of more than 100 farming families, would be forced to turn over the contested property to the government once the court lifted the temporary restraining order (TRO) on foreclosure proceedings that should have been completed in December last year.

Failed to pay

Cabañes said the PDCI failed to pay the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) a P3-million debt acquired on May 17, 1993. The amount has ballooned to P17 million.

The loan was taken from the DAR's Special Projects Agro-Industrial Area Funds channeled through the DBP.

Cabañes said foreclosure proceedings on the PDCI property had been stalled because of a court order that the cooperative obtained on Dec. 27, 2005, a day before the scheduled auction sale.

Stalling

Following the issuance of the TRO, the PDCI, through its counsel Gina Ballebar, countered by filing a civil case against the DAR and the DBP that sought to annul the deed of assignment.

Court records showed that the PDCI argued that it could not be made to pay the DBP loan because the transaction was entered into by a group called the People's Coalition for Unity and Agrarian Reform Program (Pecuaria) and not by the PDCI.

Ballebar submitted in court the argument that Pecuaria and the PDCI were "separate and distinct" and that the loan was not authorized by the cooperative.

No authority

The loan was entered into by a certain Efren Arroyo and Alicia Bisenio, Pecuaria president and treasurer, respectively.

But Ballebar said Arroyo and Bisenio were not authorized by the PDCI to execute an "addendum to chattel mortgage and the mortgage contract," saying Pecuaria and the PDCI were one and the same entity.

A petition filed in court on Nov. 29, 2005 said that without a board resolution issued by the PDCI giving authority to Pecuaria as well as Arroyo and Bisenio, the mortgage executed by the Pecuaria and signed by Arroyo and Bisenio was void from the start.

Same entity

Debunking the argument of the PDCI counsel, Cabañes said records of the Cooperative Development Authority showed that Pecuaria and PDCI were just one entity and that Arroyo and Bisenio were duly armed with Board Resolution No. 04 in 1993 that authorized them to execute the mortgage contract.

The petition of the PDCI to annul the mortgage contract is still pending in court.

Kin seek return of body of OFW killed in Saudi

LUCENA CITY—THE FAMILY OF an overseas Filipino worker who was killed in a road accident in Saudi Arabia last month has appealed for government help for the immediate return of his body.

"We have already spent the traditional nine-day prayers, and are nearing the customary 40-day bereavement and yet the body of our son is still nowhere, still in his lonesome place in a far away land," Simeona Mazon, mother of Arnold, 22, said in a phone interview.

"Why do we have to wait for so long? We were told that the Philippine Embassy in Saudi Arabia is still completing the papers. But for how long will we wait and end our torment," she said crying and her voice cracking.

The Mazons live in Mulanay town in the Bondoc Peninsula area.

On Feb. 23, the young OFW was run over by a speeding car being driven by a Saudi national, while he was crossing the street in front of a pizza restaurant where he was working in Riyadh.

He died on the spot.

Simeona said the suspect was later arrested by the police.

Arnold left for Saudi Arabia on Nov. 29 last year to help his parents.

He applied at the Pisces recruitment agency in Sucat, Parañaque City. In exchange for a P20,000 placement fee, he was able to get employment as a service crewman of Pizza Inn being managed by United Food Corp. with a salary of P12,000 to P15,000 a month.

"Otoy (Arnold's nickname) was on duty when he met the accident. He was about to cross the street when he was bumped by the speeding car," Simeona said.

She said her son had been making his presence felt in the dreams of all family members.

"He was the eldest of my four children. He was so kind and loving to all his siblings. We all could feel in our dreams that Otoy wanted to go home," Simeona said.

To ease the pain of losing a child and the seeming eternal wait for the return of his body, Simeona said the whole clan had been praying every night and holding vigils as they awaited the return of Arnold's body.

"There's always a lighted candle before the altar to remind us of Arnold," she said.

When the INQUIRER contacted the local office of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Rommel Quisao, its administrative assistant, said the Philippine Embassy had been exerting all efforts for the immediate repatriation of Arnold's body.

"There are still some problems on the flight details and some required documents. But the DFA in Saudi Arabia is doing its best," he said.

However, the department could not give an exact date on the return of the body. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pope extends term of Cardinal Vidal as archbishop of Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI HAS EXtended the tenure of Ricardo Cardinal Vidal as archbishop of Cebu in spite of his desire to retire.

Vidal, who turned 75 in February, said he accepted the decision of the Pope with joy.

The Holy Father's decision, contained in a letter sent to Vidal by Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, was read on Tuesday during the Mass celebrating Vidal's 50th anniversary as a priest held at the Metropolitan Cebu Water District auditorium.

The Mass was attended by hundreds of priests from different dioceses in the country, including Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president Bishop Angel Lagdameo of Iloilo.

Vidal said he did not know until when he would continue to head the Cebu Archdiocese.

But Msgr. Esteban Binghay, the Cebu Archdiocese's Episcopal Vicar, said that based on the letter read by Vidal, the Pope had extended his tenure until further notice or until a new replacement was named.

Binghay said priests in Cebu were glad that the soft-spoken Vidal would continue to head the Catholic Church here.

Vidal had announced during his 75th birthday on Feb. 6 that he had already filed his retirement paper.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) WISHES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT IT DOES NOT ALLOW ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TO FACILITATE FUND RELEASES.

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING TO HAVE LINKS WITH THE DBM OFFER THEIR SERVICES FOR A FEE TO EXPEDITE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) RELEASES AND THE MONETIZATION OF THE P17.5 BILLION WITHHELD INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT (IRA).

THE DBM EARNESTLY ASKS THE PUBLIC TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST THESE UNSCRUPULOUS PEOPLE AND TO IMMEDIATELY REPORT THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

THE DBM HAS EFFICIENT SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES IN PLACE FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS. THE PUBLIC NEED NOT SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM ANYONE.

THE DBM DOES NOT AND WILL NOT AUTHORIZE ANY PERSON TO EXPEDITE FUND RELEASES FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE.

(*Sgd.*) **ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.**
Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

INQUIRER
upds
present:
inquirer inter-collegiate debating championship
idealism involvement defying conventions
april 3-7, 2006
university of the philippines, diliman
make debate matter.
debating tournament
Load CENTRAL
PROMOTING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Donations keep coming in for Guinsaugon

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAASIN CITY—DONATIONS CONtinued to pour in for victims of the Guinsaugon landslide, which left over 1,000 people dead, nearly a month since it happened.

Most of the donations are in kind, particularly housing units for the survivors and evacuees from other villages considered geologically hazardous by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Other donations are in the form of scholarships for the surviving minors, said Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias.

The governor said the province also received cash donations amounting to P5.2 million and $20,360. She said the $20,000 cash donated by the Korean Church Relief Team (KCRT) had been set aside for housing units for the survivors. The group, she said, wanted the amount used solely for the construction of about 30 houses.

"We have been transparent in our dealings with the donations. Anyone can look into it because all were receipted. The donors would not have trusted us if we have been remiss with it," said Lerias in reaction to queries about the donations.

She said that aside from the goods, these were all the cash the province received. "Other donations went directly to the local government of St. Bernard. Others were coursed through different NGOs (non-government organizations), like the Red Cross," said Lerias.

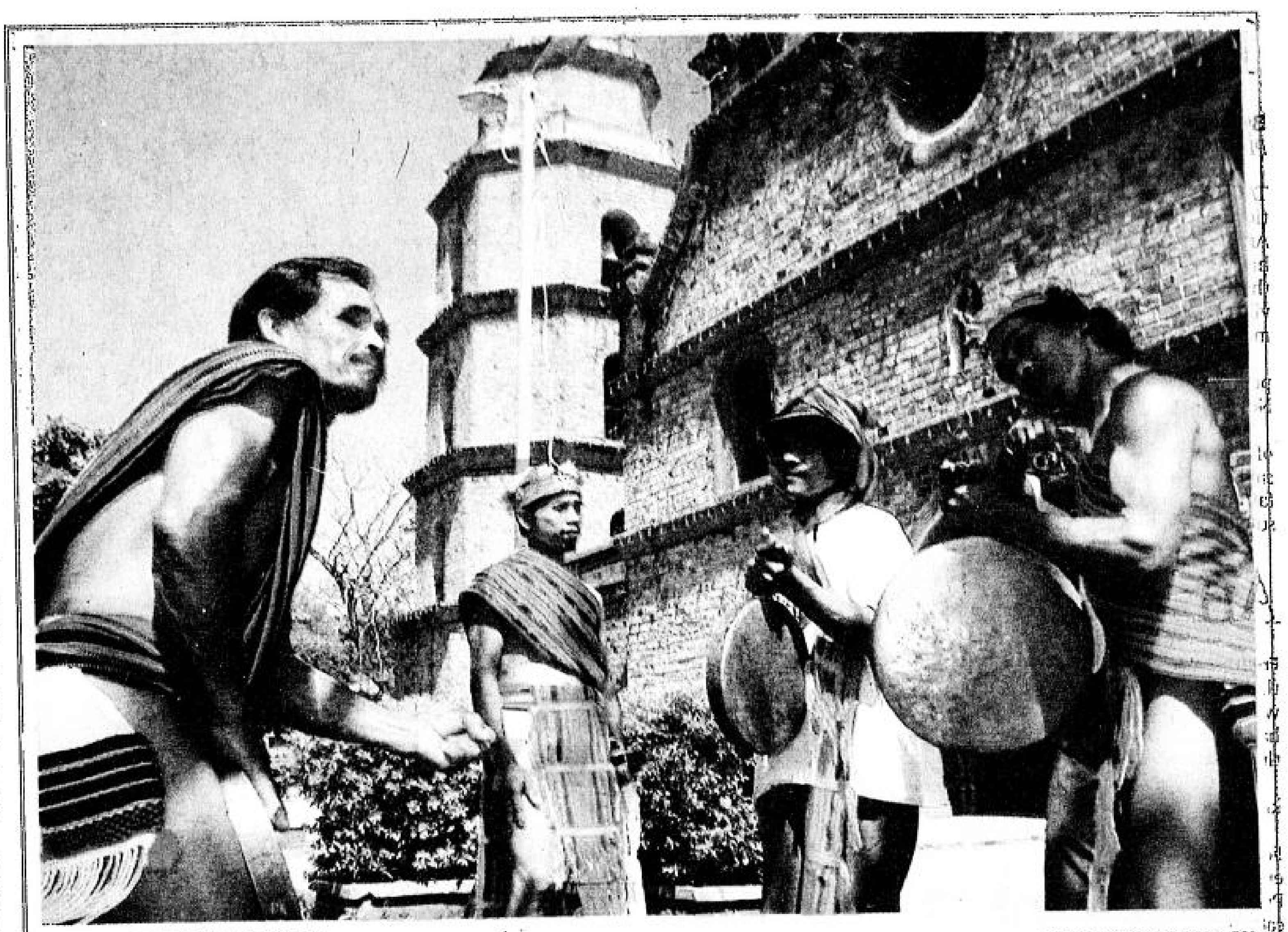
She said only 350 housing units were needed for the survivors. "But with the donations that are pouring in, we can build at least 1,000 units for the evacuees from other barangays."

The other evacuees came from Guinsaugon's neighboring villages of Hinabian, Magatas, Sugangon, Ayahag, and Nueva Esperanza. Local officials have asked residents living along the slopes of these barangays to leave as they were also at risk of becoming victims of landslides, particularly because Mt. Kan-abag had remained unstable.

"If the donations from benevolent donors keep overflowing, there is a chance that other landslide-threatened municipalities in the province, like Liloan, San Francisco, Bontoc, Sogod and Macrohon, even Maasin City, would benefit from these donations," Lerias said.

She added that "Oplan Kinabukasan," which was launched last week to monitor the victims' rehabilitation, would coordinate with St. Bernard's "Tabang St. Bernard," in undertaking the housing project.

St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim said a 5.7-hectare lot had been acquired in Barangay Magbagakay for P3 million, which came from cash donations.



MELVIN CALDERON/CONTRIBUTOR

VIZCAYA MINING ISSUE
Ifugao tribal leaders from Barangay Didipio in Kasibu town hold a thanksgiving ritual in front of the Bayombong Cathedral in Nueva Vizcaya after the filing of a petition seeking to stop an Australian firm from mining in the province.

DOJ asked: Charge mayor in publisher's slay

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Relatives of a publisher killed in Aurora on May 10, 2005 have asked the Department of Justice to charge and name Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde as the "mastermind."

Nenita Mendoza and Rosebelle Cruz, sister and daughter, respectively, of Starline Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin, made the appeal in a motion for reconsideration they filed at the office of Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

The motion, received by the DOJ on March 1, came after Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco excluded Ylarde from the charges due to lack of evidence.

Velasco, however, recommended the further investigation of Ylarde and other suspects to the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police.

Ylarde welcomed a new investigation into his alleged involvement in the murder but strongly denied having a role in it, much less masterminding it.

The relatives of Agustin, he said, were allowing themselves to be used by his political opponents.

In their motion, Mendoza and Cruz cited several reasons Ylarde should be made to primarily account for the killing.

They said Agustin's exposé on alleged anomalous transactions, which Starline reported in its May 2-8 special issue, prompted a hostile reaction from the mayor.

Cruz also attested that two of the three accused, Nilo "Boyet" Morete and Manuel Alday, were seen monitoring their house since her father began publishing the exposé.

Mendoza and Cruz said Ylarde, a former town police chief and vice mayor, "has the capability to order the execution of Agustin."

Velasco, they added, should consider the statement of witness Roy Canaria who claimed that Bobong Bautista, identified as a right hand man of the mayor, called up Canaria to say, "Don't make noise about this because you know how Daning Almuete works."

They told the prosecutor that Almuete was Bautista's "hit man doing dirty jobs for Mayor Ylarde." They gave Velasco a copy of an arrest warrant for Almuete for another murder case.

In support of the testimony of accomplice-turned witness Reynaldo Morete, Mendoza and Cruz also gave copies of daily time records showing that the three men charged with the murder were town government employees and directly supervised by the mayor. Ylarde's signatures were affixed in their records, the copies showed.

Ylarde confirmed that the three suspects used to work at the town government but pointed out that he did not maintain a private army.

Councilor Shiela Taay, in the motion submitted by Agustin's relatives, said that a day before Agustin's murder, the mayor called her to his office.

There, she said, he expressed his anger over Agustin's stories and how these had been ruining his reputation. She said before she left the room, the mayor warned that his critics should better "be tough and strong."

Loren says she'll work for 'legit' president

BAGUIO CITY—FORMER SEN. Loren Legarda said she would only work for a "legitimate president" should she win in her protest contesting results of the vice presidential race in 2004.

Legarda said the latest exposés about election officials prefabricating election returns could explain Vice President Noli de Castro's 2 percent (800,080 votes) lead in the 2004 count and might well allow her to claim the vice presidential post.

But she said she did not know what kind of working relationship she would have with President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom she accused of cheating alongside De Castro.

"That's a difficult question. Maybe I shouldn't answer you ... I will work with legitimately elected presidents," she said.

The Supreme Court has been deliberating *en banc* as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal on alleged fraud committed by De Castro's camp during the 2004 polls.

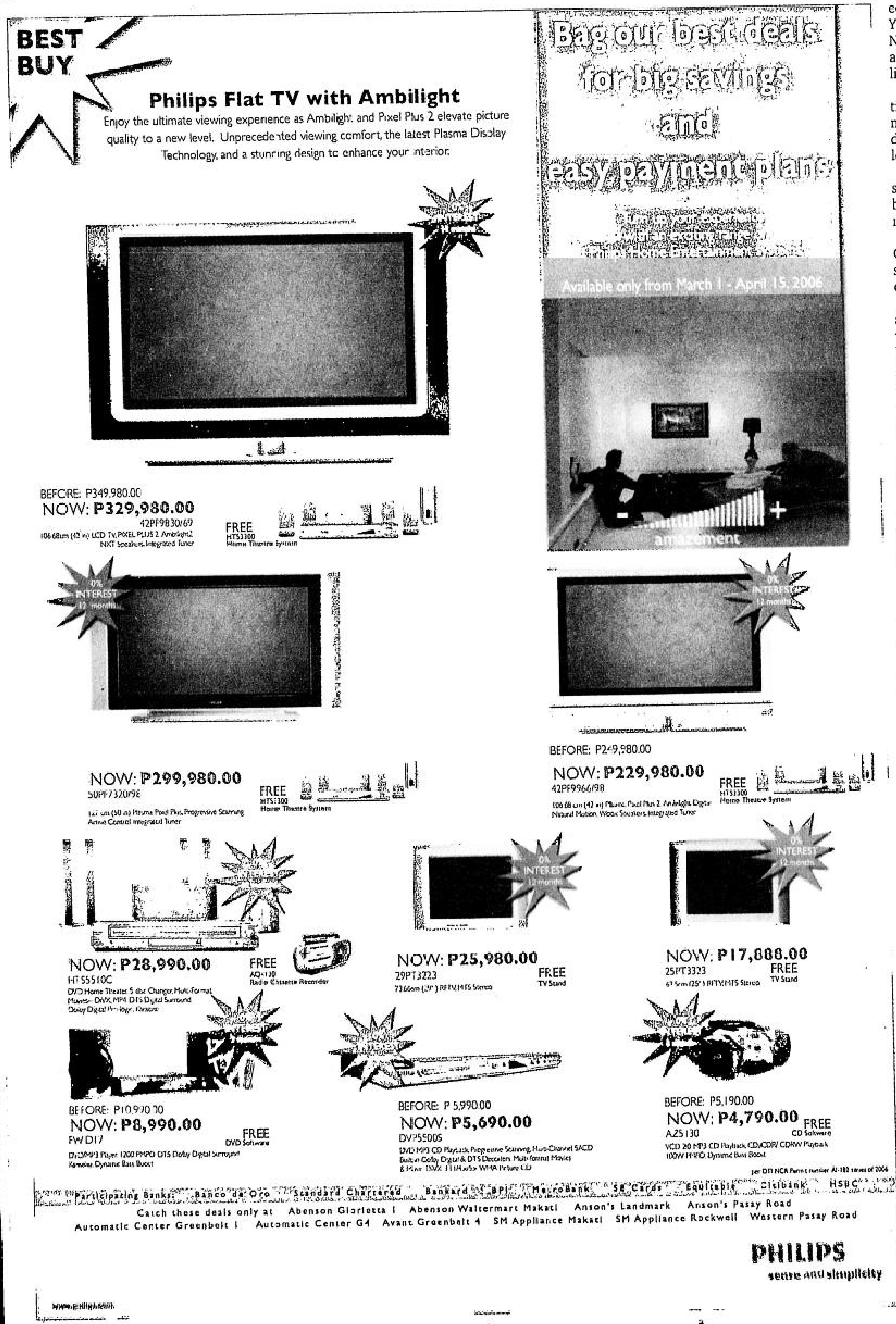
"We were able to reclaim some electoral returns [from] Southern Leyte and Negros Occidental, which were never opened. [This meant that] these were the authentic [returns that were] never counted ... and these were from provinces where [actor Fernando Poe Jr.] and I supposedly lost," Legarda said here on Tuesday.

"When these were opened before our very eyes, these [returns] showed a 70:30 margin in our favor," she said.

Legarda said she is also not worried about military reaction should the court allow her to assume the vice presidency or even the presidency if Ms Arroyo steps down.

She said military rebels did not mount coups against former President Corazon Aquino and Ms Arroyo because they were women.

"Rightist rebels attacked in 1989 because democracy was fragile during Cory's term, while military unrest today can be traced to questions about [Ms Arroyo's] legitimacy. The military is not chauvinist. I am a lieutenant colonel [in the reserve force] so I would like to believe the military is not [chauvinist]," she said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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1,000 flee homes to escape AFP-NPA clashes in Samar

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—MILITARY OPERATIONS against communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels in the past two weeks have sent over 1,000 people fleeing from their homes in at least four hinterland villages in Samar province, a nongovernment group based here reported.

Clashes and NPA attacks were also reported yesterday in Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Occidental and Bataan.

Jasmin Jerusalem, executive director of the Leyte Center for Development, said 98 families or 588 people from three farming villages in Motiong, Samar, had sought refuge in a public elementary school and in relatives' homes in Barangay Calapi, 17 km from the town center.

In the nearby town of San Jose de Buan, about 100 families or 600 individuals from Barangay Hagbay are now housed at the municipal hall, Jerusalem said.

Military authorities have identified Motiong and San Jose de Buan as among the "hotbeds" of communist insurgency in the province.

The INQUIRER yesterday tried to reach Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, head of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Samar, to verify the development agency's report. He did not respond to mobile phone calls and text messages.

Col. Jefferson Umandam, spokesperson of the Central Command based in Cebu City, also failed to answer mobile phone calls and text messages.

Jerusalem said her group on Tuesday conducted food relief operations for the evacuees. In Motiong, 37 families or 222 persons left their homes in Barangay San Andres; 31 families or 186 persons in Biri, and 30 families or 180 persons in Santo Niño.

Soldiers of the Army's 34th Infantry Battalion led by Col. Glorvida Dida and based in San Jorge town, also in Samar, have been conducting counterinsurgency operations in these villages, she said.

"The people are afraid to return to their villages for fear of their lives. They could not resume their daily and normal activities for fear that they will be affected by the ongoing military operations by the military," Jerusalem told the INQUIRER.

"While we cannot really deny that there is armed conflict going on in the two towns, operations conducted by the military must be done in such a way that civilians will not be affected or disturbed," she added.

Earlier, about 2,000 people fled the villages of Trojillo, J.E. Santos, Kalantiao, E. Duran and Santander in Bobon town, Northern Samar, on March 6 for fear of being caught in the crossfire between government soldiers and NPA members. They stayed at the municipal hall.

Vicky Datu, Bobon's local operations officer, said the evacuees had returned to their homes on March 15.

On Monday, an NPA group clashed with a military patrol for 10 minutes in Barangay Siolan in Godod, Zamboanga del Norte, resulting in one soldier being killed, according to Brig. Gen. Eugenio Sedo, head of the Army's 1st Army Infantry Division.

In Misamis Occidental, about 15 rebels disguised as soldiers entered a police station in Sapang Dalaga town at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, disarmed four policemen and took at least five M-16 rifles and three handguns, said Chief Supt. Florante Baguio, Northern Mindanao police chief. *With reports from Dennis Baguio, Hernan dela Cruz and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Nestor Burgos Jr. and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Anakpawis leader tags Army man in ambush

From page A1

that security forces were behind the wave of attacks around the country that have killed more than 100 activists or their relatives since 2001.

Malacañang pledged to act on the killings.

"There is a standing order for the (police) to act on these killings of militant leaders and to identify and arrest the culprits," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "We cannot allow this murder trend to undermine peace and order. We assure the families of the victims that no stone will be left unturned in the conduct of the probes."

The critically wounded Amante Abelon, coordinator for Anakpawis in Zambales, did not give any names but said one of the gunmen was "familiar" to him, according to initial investigation.

Abelon, 40, gave the information to investigators before he was wheeled into the operating room shortly after the attack on Monday, two sources in the police force told the INQUIRER.

Abelon's wife, Agnes, and 5-year-old son were killed when gunmen opened fire while the Abelons were riding on a motorcycle in Castillejos town.

Abelon, a barangay councilman in the Zambales town of San Marcelino and vice chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) provincial chapter, was described by doctors as being in stable condition.

He is being treated at the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City.

Dr. Armando Cepeda said Abelon was not completely out of danger as he had sustained at least 14 bullet wounds, one of them in the chest.

Abelon was among the latest victims of the attacks on militants. On Sunday, Bicol University student Cris Hugo was shot dead in Legazpi City in Albay while walking home with a professor.

Several policemen are guarding Abelon in the hospital to preempt any attempt by his attackers to finish him off, officials said.

Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado, commander of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion, said he would investigate allegations that soldiers could have been involved in the attack.

Anotado said his troops in Zambales were based only in Palauig town. Others were stationed in Bataan and a few in Bulacan, he said.

AMGL chair Joseph Canlas said his group suspected the military, specifically soldiers under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr., of being behind the incident.

"This is the handiwork of the men of General Palparan. We could not think of anyone who has the motive to single out leaders and members of Anakpawis, AMGL and other progressive organizations for liquidation," Canlas said on the phone.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano gave reporters a purported military "Order of Battle" against the Left to show that the administration was on the warpath.

Besides Mariano, on the supposed list were Kilusan ng Magbubukid ng Pilipinas leaders Danilo Ramos and Randal Echanis. It also named Anakpawis and Bayan Muna leaders Dominador Malicay, Antonio Flores, Siegfred Deduro, Richard Sarozza, Julius Mariveles and Joey Javier.

The attack on the Abelons brought to 20 the number of victims of extrajudicial killings in Central Luzon from January to March 20 this year, the AMGL said.

An Armed Forces spokesperson said the military had anticipated they would be blamed for the attacks.

"It is normal. Every time something happens to militant leftists the blame is put on the military," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado said.

"But (we've said) over and over again, if (they) have the proof, bring them to court and the Armed Forces hierarchy is more than willing to let that soldier face the full force of the law," Honrado said.

"What I would like to suggest is, let the police do their job. Let them investigate [first] rather than throw accusations left and right."

The controversial Palparan has said he does not need to show evidence to prove links between the New People's Army and some leftist groups.

Last November, he and Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon told reporters they believed Bayan Muna party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño and a provincial Bayan Muna official were supporters of the Communist Party and the NPA.

Palparan said at the time that he was not after building a legal case against the three Bayan Muna officials.

Strong links

"The evidence may not be enough. But we have to put out the information to the public," Palparan said, adding that filing court cases would only take time.

"As far as we're concerned, yes, there's a strong connection between Bayan Muna and other militant organizations to the underground movement...You can see the relationship even if they deny (it)," he said.

Palparan has been defended by the military leadership against allegations his men were involved in atrocities. The other day, he received the Distinguished Service Star, the highest military administrative award.

"So far, we can say that their statements have no factual basis," PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said, referring to the allegations of the militants. "If they have proof, they should turn it over to the police and help us."

"Aren't they also capable of doing it to their own people?" Pagdilao added, referring to the killing of hundreds of cadres suspected of being spies during the communist purge of the 1980s.

Search for missing

Unfazed by the continuing violence, a team from the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines and four Church-related institutions has launched a search in Aurora province for Joey Estriber, a missing social worker.

Estriber, a program officer of Bataris (Bahay Talakayan para sa Rekonstruksyon at Ikauunlad ng Sambayanan) and secretary general of the Multi-Sectoral Action Group of Aurora, was abducted on March 3.

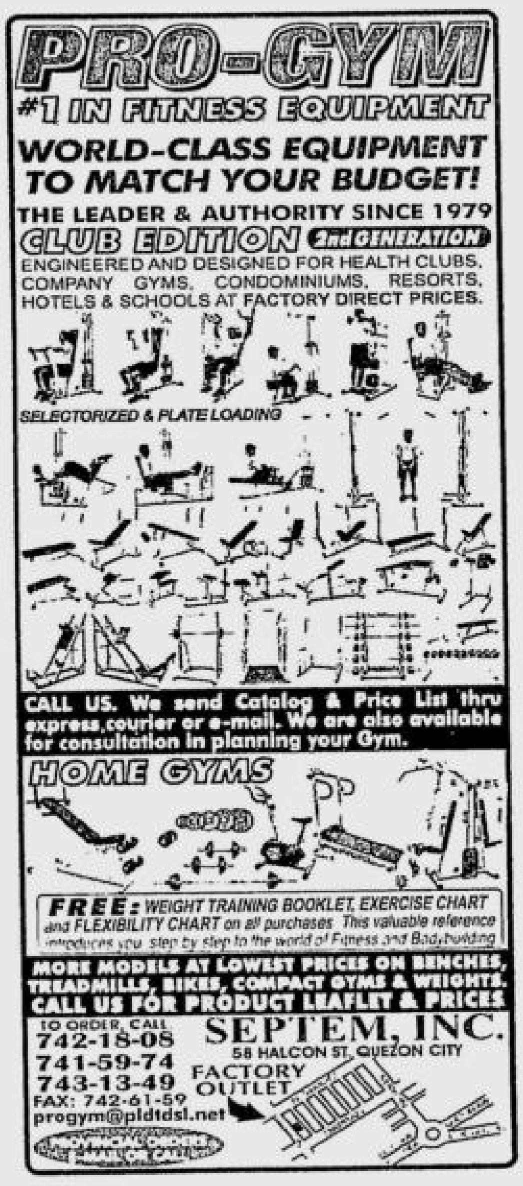
Estriber anchored a radio program on the environment.

The Church mission will also look into the reported growing military presence in Aurora.

In Bohol, militant farmers called for the pullout of the military detachment of the 15th Infantry Battalion.

Farmers belonging to the Hugpong sa mga Mag-uumang Bol-anon suspected the military was responsible for the killing of peasant leader Nestor Aranqui in Bohol on March 7.

Aranqui was killed by motorcycle-riding men in the public market. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Luige A. del Puerto, Michael Lim Ubac, and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*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GMA rues her liaison with Reds

From page A1

Teddy Casiño and Satur Ocampo that they were part of a meeting where Ms Arroyo allegedly talked with five generals a year before Edsa II, the people power revolt that ousted Estrada in January 2001.

The party-list representatives disclosed this detail as police have sought to arrest them for allegedly conniving with military officers in the aborted Feb. 24 coup.

Bunye did not address this charge in the statement.

Instead, Bunye pointed out the President's efforts in forging a peace pact to end the communist insurgency.

"She even launched peace negotiations with the NDF (National Democratic Front) in a bid to reconcile with the revolutionary Left, to no avail. They were never serious for peace," Bunye said.

"Now, the tide has completely changed," he said.

Peace talks have been suspended partly as a result of the inclusion of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army in the list of terrorist organizations being monitored by the US and European governments.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor scoffed at the party-list representatives' insistence that Ms Arroyo could be held liable for rebellion for conspiring with them to oust Estrada.

At that time, Ms Arroyo was Vice President while Estrada was on trial in the Senate on charges of bribery, corruption, betrayal of the public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

Legal move

But Defensor said Ms Arroyo back then was engaged in a "legal" move and her actions were "within the democratic space" and were done "alongside with several civil society organizations."

"It's different from the armed takeover being hatched by the Left and Right," he said.

Defensor said Edsa II was "different from what is transpiring now."

"Edsa II was a people-led revolution. The people were there first and later on the Armed Forces of the Philippines came in, not as individual generals but the entire institution, saying that we are withdrawing support from Erap," he said.

"Now, you see the military leading the campaign for a military takeover and wanting a civilian component to join them to complete the formula or ingredient of a coup d'etat or a military uprising," Defensor said.

Not sleeping with enemy

Like Defensor, Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Lakas-CMD, Cebu City) defended Ms Arroyo, saying she did not sleep with the enemy when she talked to leftist leaders in 2000.

"She was making consultations. That doesn't spell conspiracy but tells about a vice president doing her duty to consult with all sectors for any eventuality," Cuenco said.

Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, downplayed efforts by militant lawmakers to link Ms Arroyo to the movement to oust Estrada.

He said the photos presented Monday to the media by Ocampo showing Ms Arroyo with him and other militant leaders at the height of the protests calling for Estrada's ouster "provide no basis for the conspiracy story they are now trying desperately to raise against the President."

In one of the photos taken on Nov. 16, 2000, at St. Theresa's College in Quezon City, the then Vice President was seated between Ocampo and Crispin Beltran, now Anakpawis representative and one of the six party-list lawmakers charged with rebellion by the Arroyo administration.

Linking arms with Beltran

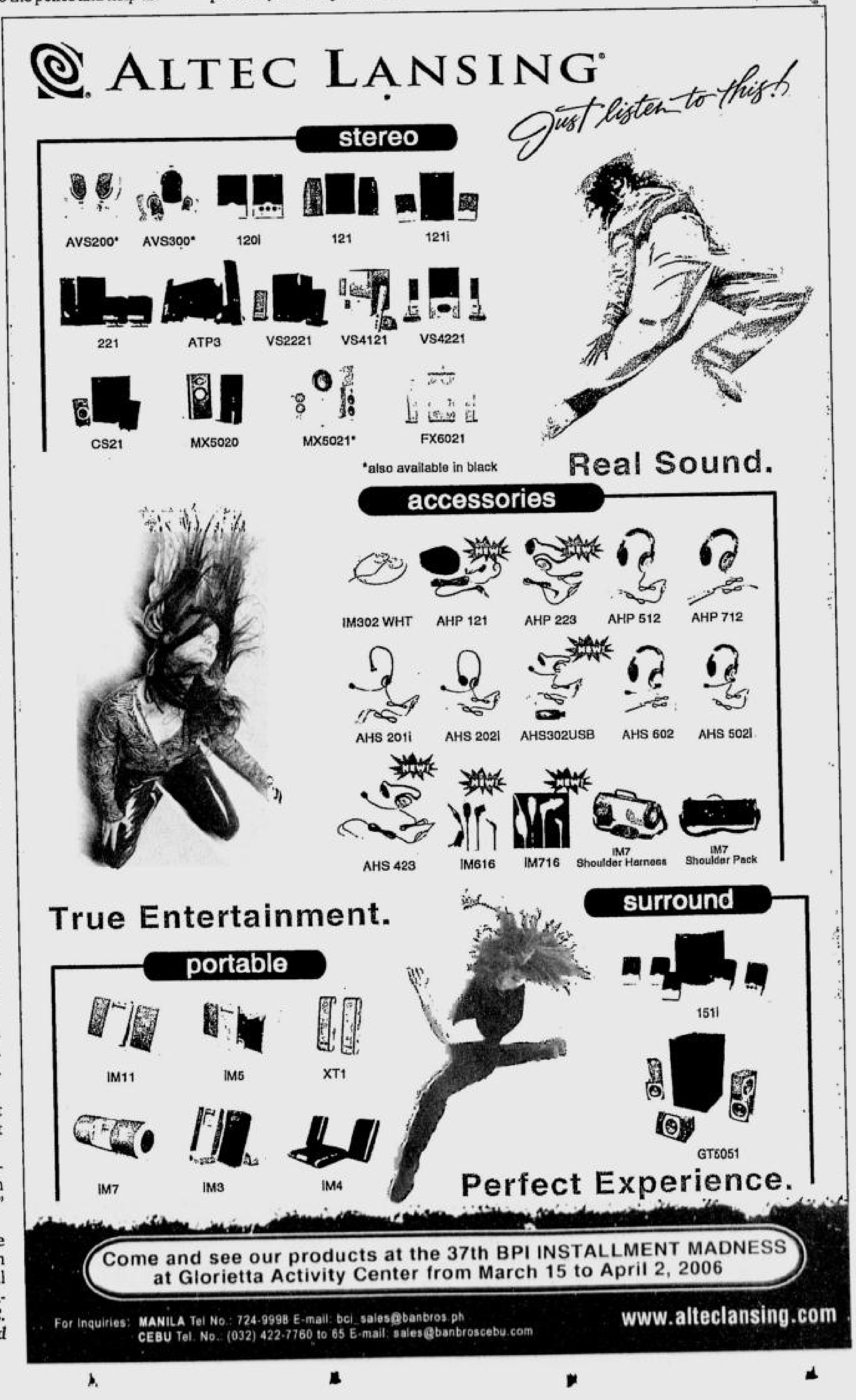
In the other photo, against a red backdrop emblazoned with the word "Oust," she had linked arms with Beltran, then Kilusang Mayo Uno chair, and other KMU leaders during a separate dialogue between her and the Workers' Alliance Against Erap (WAGE).

Ocampo had said that the then Vice President had agreed to support the 20-point agenda under a post-Estrada scenario, with Ms Arroyo as the constitutional successor.

But there was no mention of any statement quoting Ms Arroyo as urging the militant groups to oust Estrada, Cuenco said.

"Satur himself said the meeting was to formulate a reform agenda to be implemented in case Erap (Estrada) is removed from office," said Cuenco.

"It was not her fault that she had to take over from Estrada after he stepped down from office since that was part of her constitutional mandate. How can that be considered rebellion?" the lawmaker said. *Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac*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Erap confirms US notice of bugging

OUSTED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA said yesterday he has been notified by an American court that US authorities had bugged his telephone conversations with a former FBI analyst charged with illegally revealing US government secrets.

Estrada has previously acknowledged receiving American government assessments of Philippine political events from Leandro Aragoncillo, who has been accused of illegally downloading confidential US information and passing it to other people while working as an FBI intelligence analyst.

Estrada told The Associated Press he has received a notice from a New Jersey court, which informed him that some of his telephone conversations with Aragoncillo had been wiretapped by US authorities.

The notice indicated that the wiretapping, done in the course of investigating Aragoncillo, was authorized by the New Jersey court, Estrada said. There was no indication that he was being investigated by US authorities, he added.

"The notice said that my telephone calls with Aragoncillo were wiretapped," Estrada said in a telephone interview. "The wiretapping was authorized by the court."

Michael Drewniak, spokesman for the US Attorney's Office in Newark, New Jersey, has refused to comment on wiretapping, which was first reported by the INQUIRER.

"Even if that were so, I would not comment on it," he said last week.

Aragoncillo, a 21-year Marine veteran who became an FBI intelligence analyst in 2004, was arrested in the US last year. He has been charged with conspiring to reveal government secrets, acting as a foreign agent and improperly using FBI computers. Those charges carry a maximum sentence of 25 years.

He has not been charged with espionage, which carries a maximum penalty of capital punishment.

Estrada was toppled on charges of corruption in 2001 and has been on trial since then. He was scheduled to take the witness stand today.

He has acknowledged conversing with Aragoncillo by telephone and receiving US government documents on the political situation in the Philippines, but he played down their value, saying the assessments were similar to those reported by Philippine newspapers.

Asked if he felt offended by the US action, Estrada replied: "My reaction is nothing, because even before this, I have admitted that I've talked with him ... (and) that those details were nothing more than newspaper accounts of what's happening in the country."

Estrada said he met Aragoncillo when he visited the United States while he was still President and was introduced to him and other White House staffers of Filipino descent. Their friendship blossomed, with Aragoncillo visiting him at Malacañang and the military hospital where he was previously detained. *AP*

ESTRADA

Why the silence? PCGG asked

MAVERICK ADMINISTRATION SEN. JOKER ARroyo yesterday scored the "ominous silence" of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) over the plan of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco. Jr. to sell P6 billion worth of contested San Miguel Corp. "B" shares.

"Why is the PCGG ominously silent about the move of Ambassador Cojuangco for permission to sell 73 million San Miguel shares that is claimed by the government?" Arroyo said in a statement.

Arroyo said the PCGG should immediately oppose Cojuangco's petition before the Sandiganbayan to sell 73 million SMC shares to pay off the loans incurred by 14 coco-levy funded companies.

The anti-graft court has set a hearing on the case tomorrow. The 73 million shares represent 13.33 percent of the 550 million SMC shares held by companies that the government, through the PCGG, sequestered in 1986 and 1987.

"PCGG cannot allow this motion to go unchallenged. Why should San Miguel shares that is being claimed by the government be used to pay off the P6-billion loans of coco-levy corporations?" Arroyo said.

Nine of the coco levy-funded companies owe P5.34 billion in loans to the United Coconut Planters Bank. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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■ MMDA cracks down on QC barkers /A26

■ 4 hurt in Roxas Blvd. road mishap /A26

POLICE yesterday raided a house in Quiapo equipped with a surveillance camera and believed to be the center of a thriving illegal drugs trade in the area. A suspect who tried to escape was killed in a shootout that followed the raid. REM ZAMORA

Man killed in Quiapo drug bust

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MANILA POLICEMEN UNCOVERED A flourishing drug den in the middle of a depressed community in Quiapo, Manila, early yesterday morning, and killed a suspect who tried to escape.

The police said they seized P7.5 million worth of shabu and arrested six persons inside the two-story house at 14 Fraternal Street.

Supt. Romulo Sapitula, Manila Police District (MPD) Station 3 chief, said his men had to use acetylene torches in breaking down the two steel doors protecting the small alley which led to the street where the alleged drug den was located.

A surveillance camera had been installed above one of the doors, allowing the drug dealers to spot possible police operatives attempting to conduct a raid in the area, Sapitula added.

Police were able to seize three kilos of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu with an estimated street value of P7.5 million during the raid.

They also arrested six persons they found inside the house. Jennylyn De Leon, 26; Pilar Espinofella, 72; Rosalinda Rosello, 36; Amado Cortez Jr., 49; Jaime Maglapit, 38; and Angelito dela Cruz, 49, all of Quiapo, Manila, now face drug charges.

A seventh suspect, 22-year-old Jessie Lloyd Salgado, was shot to death after allegedly engaging the policemen in a shootout.

"The area is notorious for its drug activities," Sapitula said, adding that two MPD operatives were killed during an operation in the area many years ago.

Armed with a search warrant, the policemen conducted the raid at 4:30 a.m. Sapitula said three suspects, including Salgado, were able to leave the house while the MPD operatives were breaking down the doors.

MPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza later inspected the house after the raid. It was during this time that Sapitula noticed that one of the rooms on the first floor was locked.

When responding policemen broke down the door, they saw two other unidentified suspects and Salgado, who had apparently gone back to the house.

Thinking that the police had already left, the suspects jumped out of the window and quickly boarded a boat docked in a nearby creek.

Policemen ran after the three, and killed Salgado in a shootout that followed, Sapitula said. "We are now tracing the whereabouts of the other suspects," the police official added.

Death threats all in family

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE WIFE OF ASSASSINATED businessman Leonardo Umale yesterday said she could recognize some of the men who killed her husband last Thursday.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Clarissa said some of the suspects "looked familiar."

But she refused to give further details as she expressed fear for the safety of a vital witness, her children and lawyers. "Our lawyers are already getting death threats," she said.

Clarissa added she had also asked her two sons to leave the city as they, too, had received threats. Clarissa and her daughter were about to enter the Pearl Plaza Building on Pearl Drive with Umale last Thursday when four men approached her husband and shot him at close range. Umale's electrician, Ernesto Ganton, who was with him, died in the hospital on Saturday night.

Clarissa said earlier that apart from the four suspects, she also saw three others who could have acted as lookouts. Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, the head of Task Force Umale, said they would look into the possibility that there could be more than four killers.

Clarissa had accused Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit Singson" as the mastermind of the killing, an allegation he had quickly denied.

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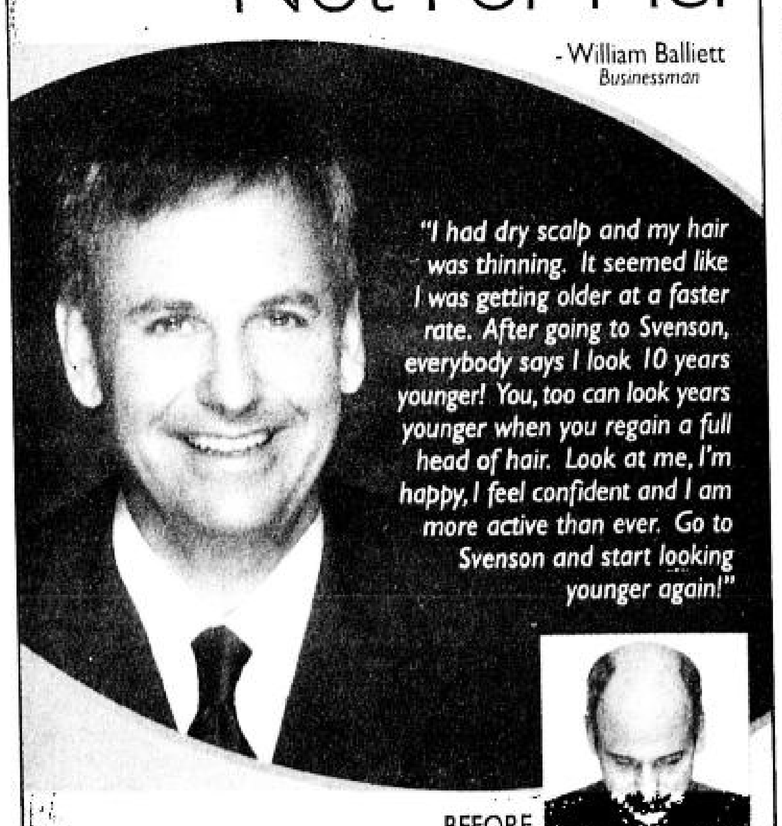
Businessman



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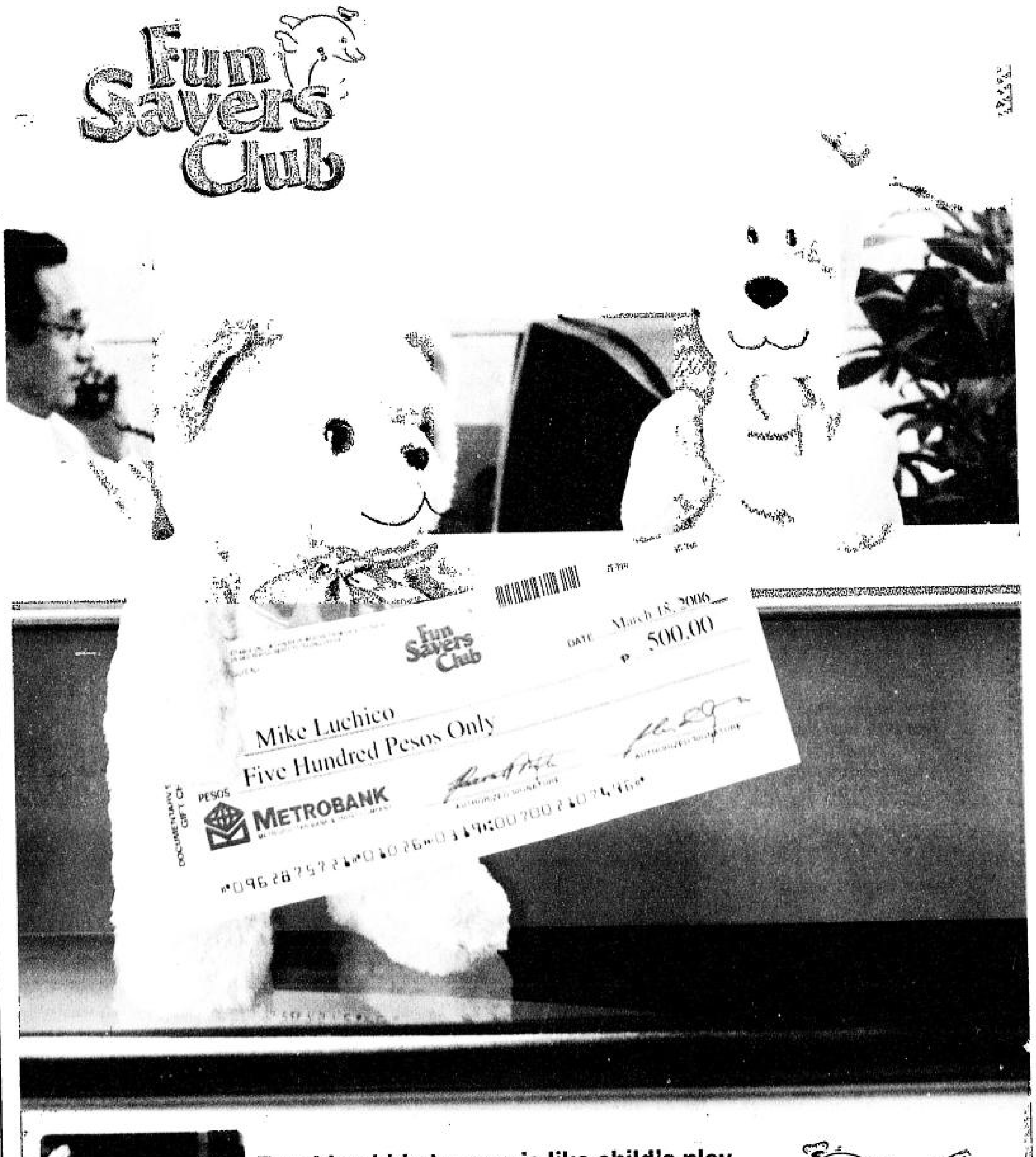

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No arrest without mission order from BI

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) cannot arrest just any foreigner believed to be engaged in prohibited ventures like small-scale lending businesses without a mission order from the immigration commissioner.

And before BI intelligence operatives can get a mission order, they have to verify a formal complaint against a foreigner or validate tips from informants.

Faizal Hussin, the bureau's intelligence chief, yesterday said that BI operatives also conduct their own monitoring and data gathering on aliens' illegal activities, after which the operatives submit an intelligence report that would be used as a basis for the mission order.

"We can't just go arresting any foreigner. We can't move against people without a mission order," Hussin said in a phone interview. "We have to follow a process because otherwise, we would be the one subjected to many complaints."

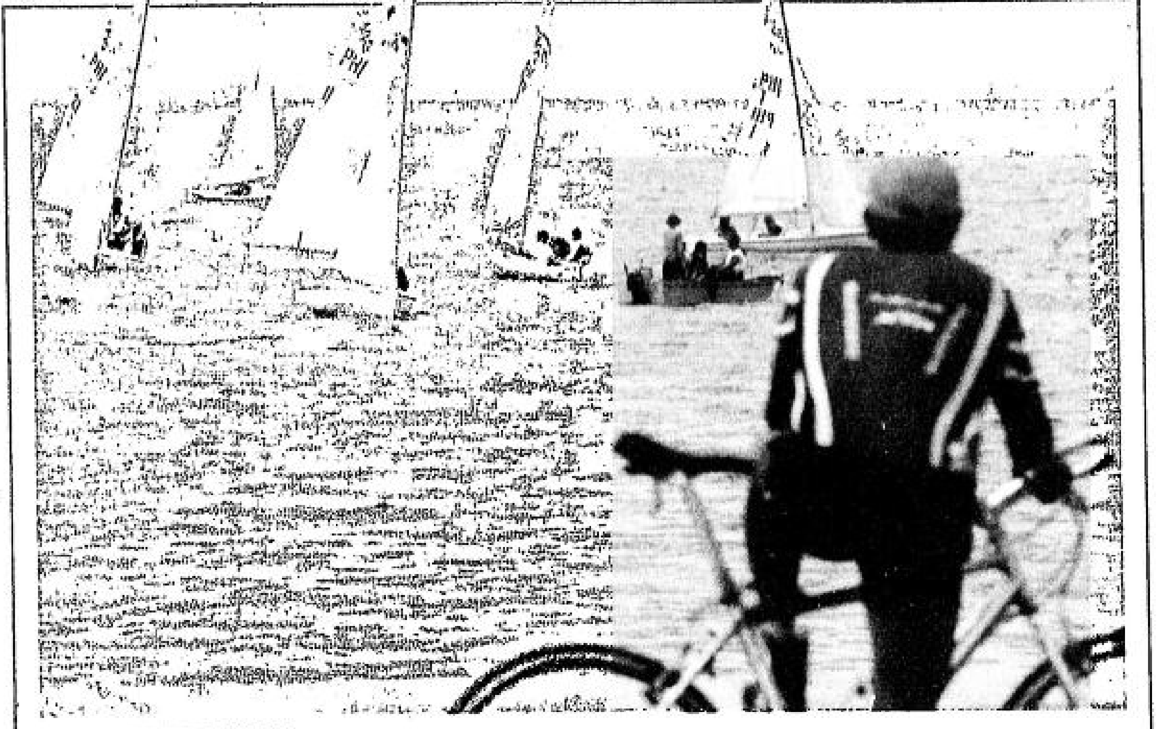
Hussin made the statements when asked about the bureau's response to reports that foreigners have been engaging in the "5-6" lending business, wherein the borrowers, usually Filipinos, are charged higher than the usual interest rates.

He added that the BI does not allow its operatives to conduct arrests based on their own information without first getting a mission order from the commissioner to ensure that their actions would be aboveboard.

"That could be abused if we allow everybody to do that," Hussin said.

Earlier, BI executive director Roy Almoro said engaging in retail trade reserved for Filipinos could be a ground for deportation among foreigners.

He added that aliens must follow the requirements of the Retail Trade Liberalization Act, which prescribes the capital requirement for foreigners who want to engage in business in the country.



BOAT WATCHING

A biker makes a brief stop along Roxas Boulevard to look at the sailboats drifting on Manila Bay. RYAN LIM

METROBRIEFS

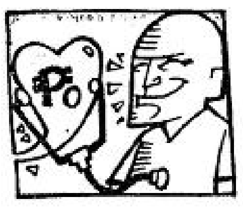
Crackdown on barkers

NINE barkers were apprehended on major intersections in Quezon City over the weekend, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) announced yesterday. In a statement, the MMDA said the barkers—men calling for passengers for jeepneys, buses and FX taxis—were accosted for violating an MMDA resolution and a Quezon City ordinance which prohibits the loading of passengers at illegal terminals. The nine were apprehended at three intersections along Edsa: Santolan Road, Aurora Boulevard and Kamias Road, by operatives of the MMDA's Security and Intelligence Office (SIO). They were fined P110 each before their release. "We are duty-bound to rationalize the traffic problem in Metro Manila lest we be accused of consigning the riding public to chaos," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Junk shop owner killed

TWO men shot dead a businessman yesterday morning inside his junk shop in Pasig City. Jose Zafe, 36, died of a gunshot wound in the head and body, police reported yesterday. Pasig City police chief Senior Supt. Romeo Abaring said they have not yet established any motive behind the killing but investigators told the INQUIRER that the two men had tried to extort money from the victim. Police said Zafe was in his house on Market Avenue, where he also maintained a junk shop, when the suspects barged inside and allegedly demanded money. When Zafe refused to give them money, one of the suspects pulled out a handgun. The victim was shot twice when he tried to grab the firearm. The killers quickly rushed out of the compound, got on a motorcycle and fled. Relatives brought Zafe to the Pasig City General Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

QC cares for senior citizens



QUEZON City has teamed up with a health care provider to help the city's elderly protect themselves from common ailments like pneumonia and the flu. The city's Office for Senior Citizens Affairs and the Home Health Care, a multi-disciplinary group of doctors, nurses, therapists and caregivers, will conduct a series of health lectures and consultations for senior citizens. The HHC will also offer special rates for vaccines against pneumonia, hepatitis A and B, and tetanus. Free on-site screening and consultation to determine one's blood sugar level or blood pressure will also be available, according to OSCA head Conrado Buenaventura. The free lectures and consultations will be held in different areas in the city. The schedule, however, has yet to be announced. *DJ Yap*

4 hurt in road mishap

FOUR passengers of an FX taxi were hurt after the van overturned after hitting an island in Pasay City yesterday. The taxi, which was bound for Sucat, Parañaque City, had just gotten off the Buendia flyover on Roxas Boulevard when it suddenly swerved to the left and hit the center island. When the driver, Jessierick Soberano, twisted the wheel to the right, "this caused the vehicle to turn turtle once and land on its left side," SPO2 Victorino Sabuco told the INQUIRER. Soberano said he lost control of the van after the brakes malfunctioned. The passengers, identified as Miriam Dolorosa, Emmines Sampayan, Joseph Felipe and Corazon Torres, were rushed to the San Juan De Dios Hospital where they were treated for their wounds. Dolorosa, the investigator said, fractured her foot. Sabuco added that the driver will be charged with reckless imprudence. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Navotas summer program

THE NAVOTAS government has lined up several activities to keep the youth busy this summer. The project, dubbed Kalinga sa Kabataan, features a free sports clinic and an arts workshop from April 3 - May 24. The sports clinic offers karatedo, taekwondo, arnis and swimming lessons with instructors from the Philippine Karatedo Federation. The workshop for acting, dancing, and basic drawing and lettering will be conducted by instructors and graduates from the Philippine Education Theater Association. "It is one way for everybody, particularly the students, to spend the summer vacation constructively," Mayor Toby Tiangco said. Interested applicants may apply at the Public Information Office in the Navotas Municipal Hall or contact Jerry Doringo or Josel Lopez at 2814174 or 2818602.

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French unions call for general strike

PARIS—FRENCH UNIONS AND STUDENT BODies called on Monday for a general strike and protest marches on March 28 to pressure the government to withdraw a job law they say will create insecurity for a generation of young workers.

"All the unions are calling to make March 28 a day of demonstrations, strikes and work stoppages," said Rene Valadon, confederal secretary of the Force Ouvrière union after a meeting of France's main unions, student and high school groups.

The large public sector was expected to join the one-day stoppage in force but it was not immediately clear how the strike would affect the private sector.

"In the public sector there will be a 24-hour strike and in the private sector there will be flexible work stoppages," said Gerard Aschieri, secretary general of United Unions Federation.

Despite nationwide protest marches over the weekend, Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has stood firm on the First Job Contract (CPE) law but also called for dialogue to improve it.

He held meetings with students and employers on Monday to discuss their concerns and promote the law.

French President Jacques Chirac on Monday backed his prime minister over the law, which allows employers to fire people under 26 for any reason during a two-year trial period.

Chirac said the CPE showed the government's willingness to fight youth unemployment, which stands at 23 percent in France, more than twice the national rate.

"The challenge... is to open a constructive and confident dialogue in this spirit which can allow improving the CPE," Chirac told a news conference with Jordan's King Abdullah.

"I know this is the prime minister's and the government's willingness and I can only approve of it," Chirac said. There was no immediate government reaction to the strike call.

Opposition to the law has provoked a crisis for Villepin, which could harm his chances of running for president in 2007 and damage the ruling UMP party.

Opinion polls show his popularity has slumped in recent weeks and a poll for the BVA organization on Monday showed that 60 percent of French voters want the law withdrawn.

Student groups and union leaders say the CPE would create a generation of disposable workers without job security.

"The government must have the wisdom to get out of this impasse which it has imposed on itself. It must withdraw the CPE," said a statement by unions after Monday's decision, adding that only its withdrawal would open the way to negotiations. *Reuters*

Australia starts cyclone cleanup

INNISFAIL, AUSTRALIA—AUSTRALIA'S northeast coast picked up the pieces on Tuesday after a cyclone with winds topping 290 kph ripped roofs off homes, decimated the nation's sugar and banana crops and uprooted trees.

Astonishingly, there were no deaths and only some minor injuries as Cyclone Larry, one of Australia's most powerful cyclones, left a trail of destruction along 300 km of coast south of the tourist center of Cairns on Monday morning.

The maximum category five storm may have cut raw sugar production by the world's third-largest exporter by 500,000 tons, or 10 percent, while about 90 percent of Australia's banana production was also believed to have been wiped out, industry groups said.

But as emergency services, troops and local communities surveyed the damage from Larry, another storm, Cyclone Wati, was brewing about 1,000 km east of Cairns at category two strength, Australia's Tropical Cyclone Warning Center said.

"It is moving towards the west at 20 kph and should gradually intensify over the next 24 hours. Wati is expected to maintain this track until Wednesday morning when it will slow down and remain in offshore waters for the rest of the week," the center said on its website, www.bom.gov.au.

Queensland state Premier Peter Beattie said the recovery from Monday's cyclone would be "long and slow" and that it would take time to restore basic services. Hundreds of tarpaulins were being delivered to affected areas to make homes liveable.

Speaking from the sugar-growing town of Innisfail, just south of Cairns, which took the full force of the storm, Beattie praised emergency services and local communities and said delivering food, clean water and power generators was a priority. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Bush won't abandon Iraq

CLEVELAND—President George W. Bush vowed on Monday not to abandon Iraq and tried to counter fears among Americans that the sectarian violence killing Iraqis and US troops was spiraling into civil war. Bush insisted progress was being made but said it remained an uphill battle. "In the face of continued reports about killings and reprisals, I understand how some Americans have had their confidence shaken," Bush said. "They wonder what I see that they don't." *Reuters*

Pressure on Belarus leader

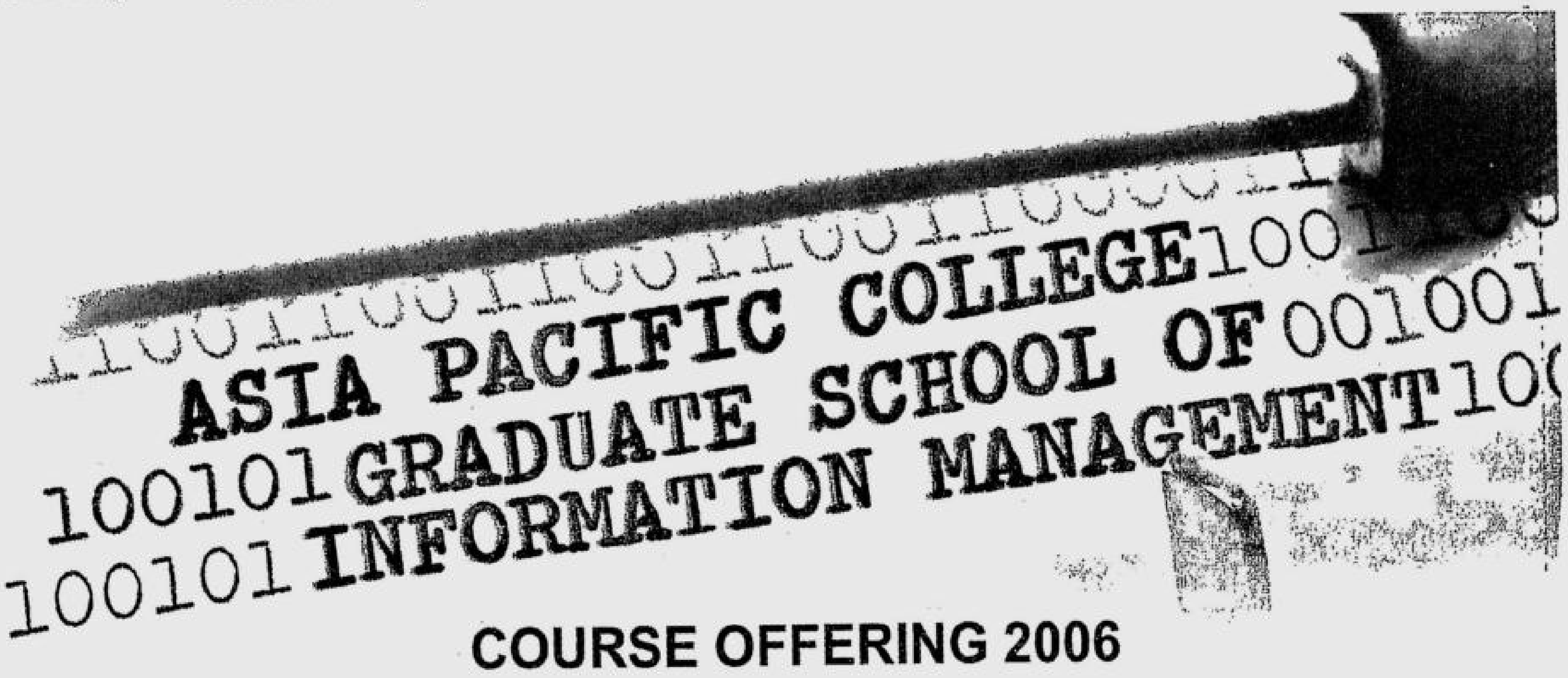
MINSK—Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko faced growing Western criticism Tuesday over his clinching of a third term in office as protestors camped in the capital resolved to carry on fighting for an annulment of presidential election results. The United States, which has called Belarus "Europe's last dictatorship," said it "cannot accept as legitimate the election results" and would consider, in cooperation with European partners, new sanctions on the hardline regime. *AFP*

FBI agent's 9/11 warning

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia—An FBI agent testified Monday that he warned his bosses about Zacarias Moussaoui 70 times before the Sept. 11 attacks, and raised fears he planned to hijack an airliner. Agent Harry Samit, who arrested Moussaoui, also admitted that he accused his superiors of "criminal negligence" and "careerism" in a US government inquiry into their failure to act upon his warnings. The FBI agent was shown a memo he sent to FBI headquarters in Washington on Aug. 18, 2001, parts of which were sent across the federal government, in which he referred to Moussaoui 70 times. In the document, Samit warned the Frenchman was learning how to steer a 747-400 airliner, had a portable GPS navigation system, was an Islamic fundamentalist, and was armed with small knives and learning martial arts. *AFP*

Iranian nuclear crisis

NEW YORK—Top officials from Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States wrapped up more than four hours of talks on the Iranian nuclear crisis here Monday but failed to agree on a clear strategy to coax Tehran into foregoing nuclear arms. Participants, however, agreed to continue their discussions, including the issue of a Franco-British statement now before the UN Security Council that calls on Iran to comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) demand that it suspend uranium enrichment. "The talks were difficult," largely because of Russian and Chinese objections to the firm stance advocated by the Western powers, said a Western diplomat who asked not to be named. *AFP*



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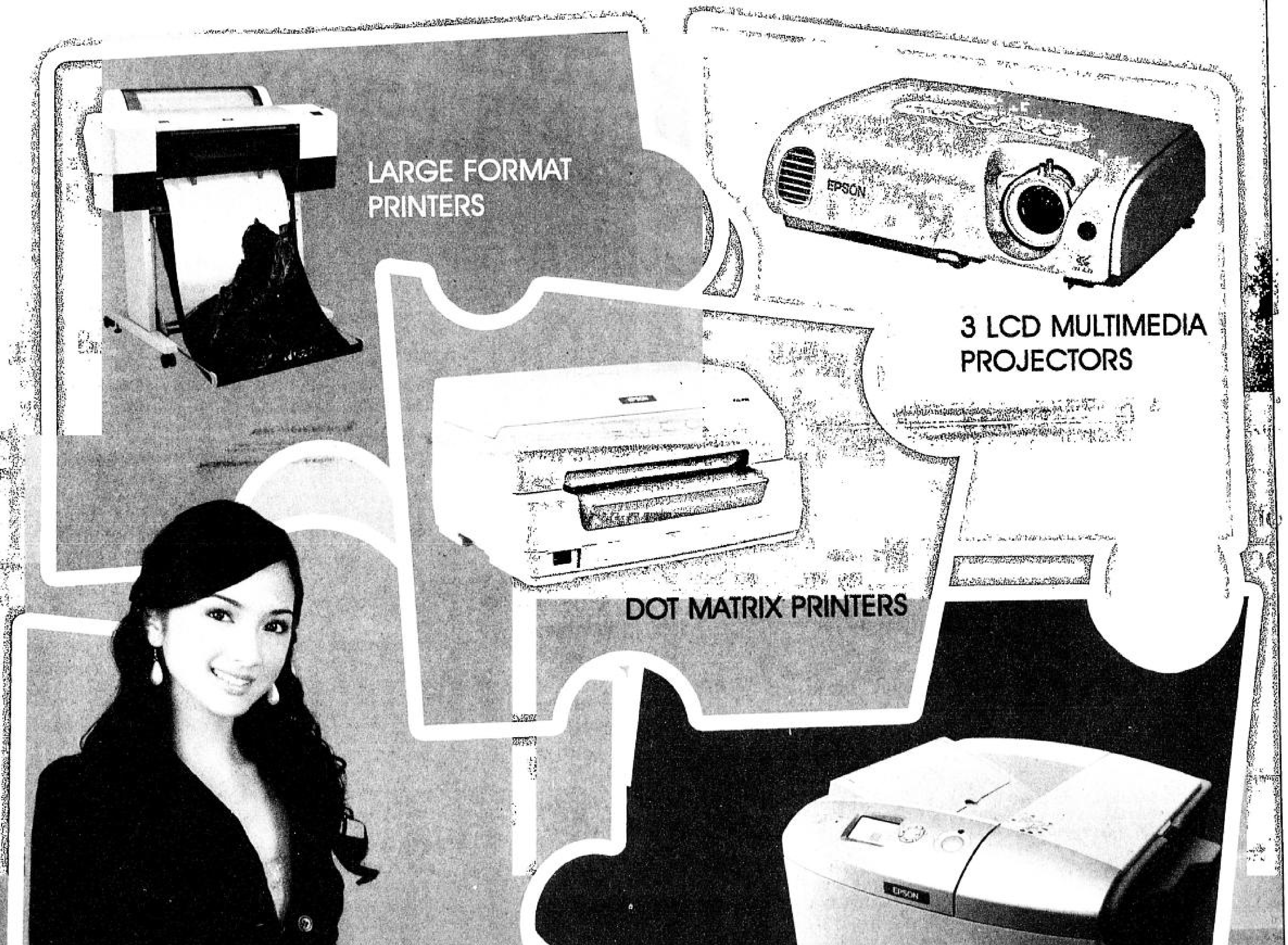
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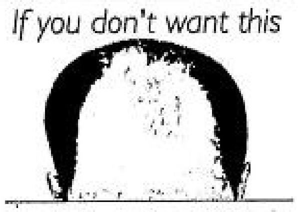
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BAP reinstatement not an option—POC

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines' demand for reinstatement is an "old issue being rehashed" and the Philippine Olympic Committee insists it isn't going to give in.

The reaction came yesterday on the heels of the BAP announcement Monday that it will file a case against the local Olympic body in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) this month.

"We are no longer talking about reinstatement," said POC media bureau chief Joey Romasanta. "This issue has already been overtaken by events. It has already been overtaken by the formation of a new federation."

BAP president Joey Lina's claims that the POC illegally expelled the 60-year-old cage body disappointed POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Romasanta said.

COJUANGCO

"I talked to him and he is dismayed that an old issue is being rehashed," said Romasanta. "Mr. Lina already started talking with the stakeholders. He already talked about forming a new [federation]. He was actively participating, he was not talking about reinstatement anymore."

Romasanta said the BAP "can go wherever they want."

The POC expelled the BAP June last year.

In a statement released yesterday, the BAP claimed that its bid to regain membership is an issue the POC hasn't dealt with for months.

Lina said the POC has yet to follow a November ruling by a regional trial court that ordered the reinstatement of the BAP.

"The POC did not comply with the order," the statement read. "Had the POC complied with the court order, then the suspension on the Philippines could have been lifted by Fiba, thus enabling the Philippines to participate in Fiba-sanctioned tournaments."

The POC is already prepared to seek Fiba's recognition of Pilipinas Basketball, the new federation backed by four of the five stakeholders—the PBA, PBL, UAAP and the NCAA. Lina, the fifth stakeholder, quit the group.

"Mr. Lina was almost given a freehand by POC to draft the constitution and by-laws," noted Romasanta. "As far as the POC is concerned, [the group has] to comply with the requirements and the timeline stipulated in the MoU."

The Memorandum of Understanding outlined the conditions under which the Fiba suspension will be lifted.

"The general assembly will not agree to reinstate the BAP," said Romasanta. "For POC to accept or expel a new member, you need two-thirds of the vote. When BAP was expelled, it was not a unilateral decision."

The CAS is an international institution that settles sports-related disputes. Based in Lausanne, Switzerland, it is independent of any sports organization composed of 300 arbitrators from 87 countries.

WHAT'S INSIDE
- Guidicelli's explosive comeback zaps rivals /A30
- Japan smears Cuban repute /A32

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VILORIA

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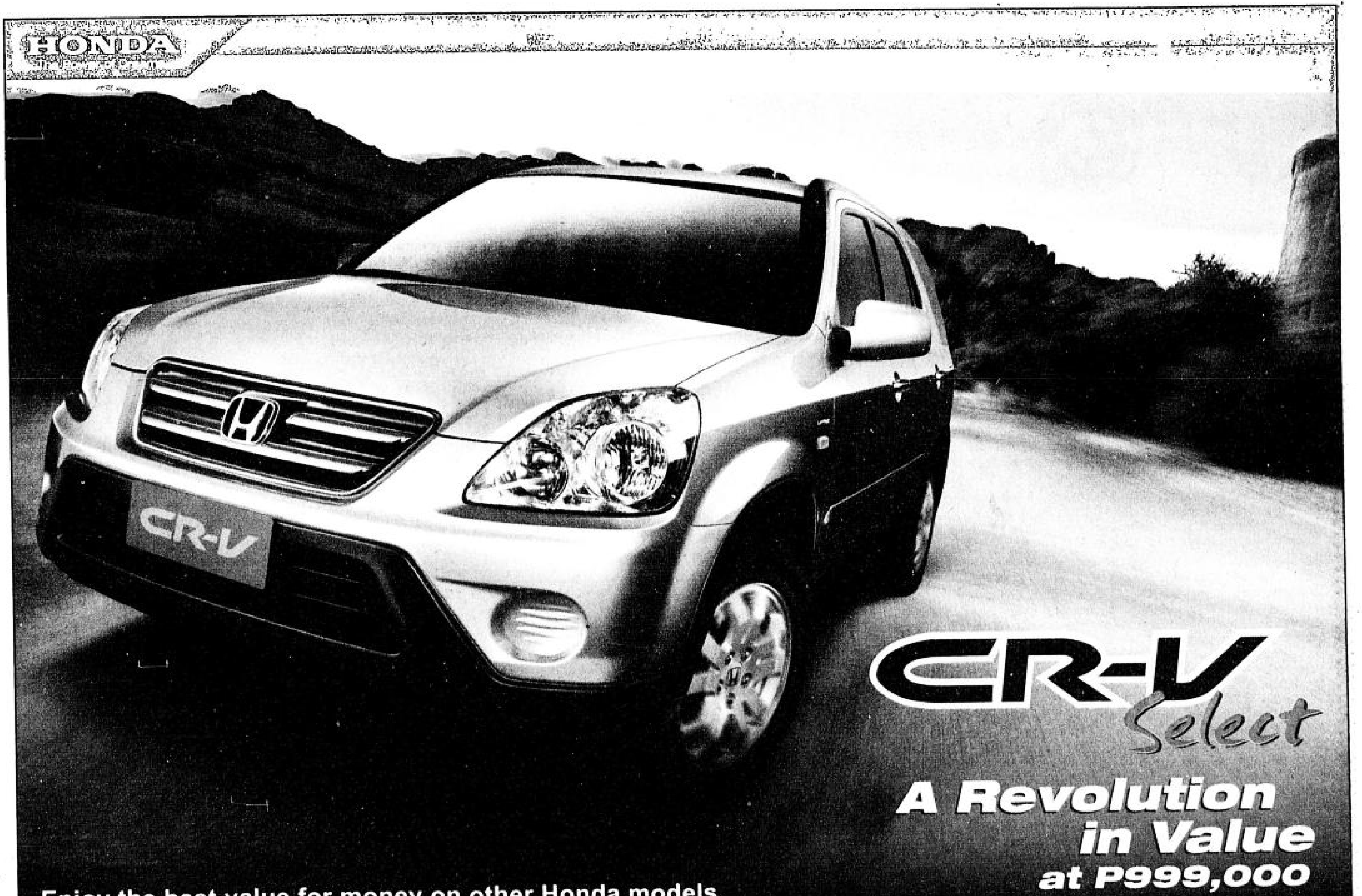
A GOLDEN REPLICA of the world junior lightweight belt which the legendary boxing champion Gabriel "Flash" Elorde won in 1960 will be awarded to reigning world light flyweight champion Brian Viloria on Saturday during the 6th annual Elorde Boxing Awards Night at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Viloria and Fighter of the Year Manny Pacquiao are the outstanding honorees in the annual tribute to the country's top fighters and boxing personalities organized by the Elorde clan and Johnny Elorde Management International.

"Viloria will be awarded an exact copy of the golden belt that Flash Elorde wore when he beat Harold Gomes [of the US] for the world junior lightweight championship 46 years ago at the Araneta Coliseum," said Liza Elorde yesterday at the PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila.

Elorde knocked out Gomes in the seventh round of a bruising encounter on March 16, 1,960 before a sellout crowd in the Big Dome in Quezon City.



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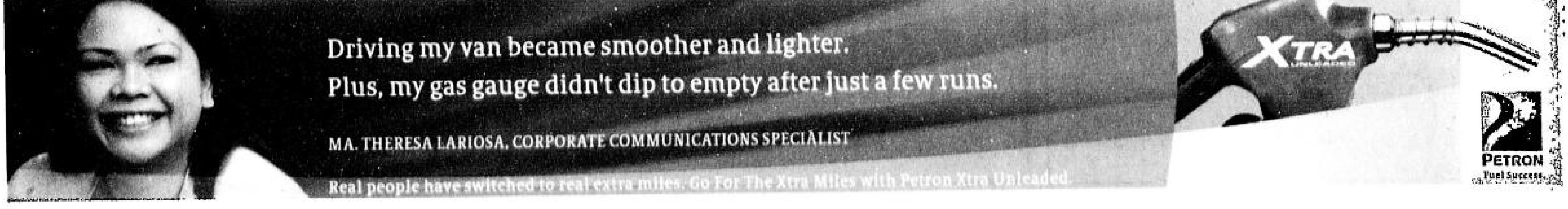
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Red Bull	1	1
Purefoods	1	2
Talk 'N Text	1	2
Sta. Lucia	1	2
Air21	1	3

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Red Bull vs Sta. Lucia Realty
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Barangay Ginebra

RED BULL AND STA. LUCIA REALTY HOPE TO build on recent victories while Barangay Ginebra and Purefoods eye a rebound in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Champions in the Fiesta Cup last conference, the Bulls shook off the cobwebs that led to a conference-opening defeat to the San Miguel Beermen and defeated the Alaska Aces with their trademark running attack.

"That loss against San Miguel was a wake-up call for us," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "If we want to be contenders in this conference, we must beat teams at their best."

The Realtors also woke up from a short slumber and turned back the Air21 Express to begin their climb out of a 0-2 pit. Dennis Espino and Marlou Aquino were both fired up in that victory, with Aquino making up for a lack of fire in setbacks against Purefoods and Barangay Ginebra.

"We've been developing a new system and if you noticed, the team is now more inclined to run the breaks than rely on deliberate play," said Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua. "Actually, we're not really looking to win. I just tell them to improve every game and victories will follow."

Enrico Villanueva, Mick Pennisi and EJ Feihl are being eyed to anchor a defense that the team hopes will fuel its fast-paced offensive flow.

"We want to put energy on a consistent manner, defense-wise," said Guiao, whose Bulls are coming off a week's break after beating Alaska. "On the offensive end, we're more comfortable with the uptempo brand of play."

Guiao added: "That one-week break was good for us. We should relish it because my players are already spent after winning the championship."

In contrast, the Giants will be playing their third game in a week that included a trip to Hong Kong. Purefoods has lost two in a row, one to the Coca-Cola Tigers and the other to the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals during the league's first overseas game of the season.

Kerby Raymundo was his usual fiery self and battled the brusque Talk 'N Text frontline with success before a sellout crowd of overseas Filipino workers in the former British territory.

However, Willie Miller and Jimmy Alapag shot the lights out of the Queen Elizabeth stadium, paving the way for an 88-66 rout of the Giants.

The Kings, on the other hand, were looking to protect a clean slate when they faced the Beermen recently, but instead ran straight into a San Miguel squad that played sharp enough to post a 77-59 rout that pulled the crowd favorites to solo second at 2-1.

June Navarro

Guidicelli's explosive comeback zaps rivals

Shell HELIX
ROK

MATTEO Guidicelli sets the early pace against Daniel Cleak (7) and a trio of Birel drivers, Marlon Stockinger (33), Ivan Carapiet (9) and Indy Villalon (3) in Sunday's race at Carmona Circuit Phils.

CARMONA, CAVITE—MATTEO GUIDICELLI buried the memory of his controversial defeat to Michelle Bumgarner last year with an explosive victory Sunday in the kickoff leg of the 2006 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit.

Guidicelli, lead driver of the Cebu Racing Group who now dons the colors of Alessandra Racing, took the checkered flag in the combined race for the premiere Formula 125 and the Rotax Max Seniors classes.

The 15-year-old former Karter of the Year battled Intelco's Daniel Cleak and Birel's Marlon Stockinger tooth and nail early in the race before pulling away in the 15th lap, where he posted the fastest lap time of 44.222 seconds.

Guidicelli clocked 14 minutes and 39.875 seconds in the 20-lap, 32-karter race, finishing 1.677 seconds in front of Cleak. Stockinger settled for third place, 2.727 seconds off the pace.

Sharing the limelight with Guidicelli in the combined race were Ysabel Potenciano, Jess Garcia, Chito Magcalas and newcomer Brian Lim.

Ysabel, daughter of the multititled Mike Potenciano, handily topped the Rotax Novice class over runner-up Santiago Go and Kim Manabat.

Garcia, a native of Cebu, became the first winner of the new ROK Seniors class over fellow Cebuano Manger Calderon and Toti Turalba.

Magcalas topped the Veterans class over expatriate Santiago Garcia and Ricardo Loi, while Lim won a close race with Kaine Gandouco and last year's Cadet 60 novice champion Vencer John Suba to claim the Formula SL plum in the series sponsored by Shell Helix, Denso Iridium Power, Honda Phils., Eastway Company, Aeromed Ambulance Transport and Yokohama Kart Tires.

Carmona Mayor Dahlia Loyola graced the opening ceremonies together with Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) chair Mandy Eduque and Yoshiki Yoshida, vice president of Philippine Auto Components Denso Iridium Power.

Tan nixes Granny Goose offer; Sison to coach Tortillos

By Calvin Cordova
Cebu Daily News

CITING THE SAME REASONS AS when he first quit the post, former Granny Goose coach Jun Tan has denied he is making a return stint with the Tortillos in the coming PBL Unity Cup.

The Cebu-based Tan told the CEBU DAILY NEWS that he has officially turned down the offer of Granny Goose to return to the squad.

Tan's decision paved the way for former Montaña mentor Robert Sison to take over the Tortillos.

"Much as I want to coach Granny Goose again, my business here [Cebu] would not allow me to do so," said Tan.

Earlier reports that came out in national newspapers said that Tan had already accepted his old job.

"My business here is growing and it's not practical for me to leave it," said Tan, who met with the Granny Goose management last week. "That's why I politely beg off to coach Granny Goose again and I'm grateful that the management also understood my situation."

Tan, however, accepted the offer to become the team's consultant.

Sison, who led Montaña to its lone championship in the 2004 Platinum Cup, resigned last month amid a cloud of controversy.

Tan said he will be working together with Sison to help Granny Goose achieve a decent finish in the upcoming tournaments.

"Robert told me that he would also use the system that I implemented when I was still the coach and it's good because the players would not adjust that much," said Tan.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

LTO INSIDE WINDSHIELD VALIDATION STICKERS AND PLATE YEAR TAGS FOR 2006

The Land Transportation Office, through the General Funds (Funds 101) intends to apply the sum of Ten Million Five Hundred Thousand (P10,500,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the supply and delivery of ***2006 Inside windshield validation stickers and plate year tags*** for the use Sectoral Head Office and Regional Offices. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 22, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before April 3, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety bond	Two and a half Percent (2 ½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on April 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan – Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 921-9071 – telefax

Roberto S. Se, Chairman – OIC, Property Section
Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9292015 – telefax

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC-Chairman

(PDI – March 22, 2006)

Badminton revamp brewing—again

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE COUNTRY hosts its first internationally sanctioned tournament, Philippine badminton is headed for yet another revamp, one which threatens to derail a resuscitation program that has already been put in place.

The shakeup, insiders revealed yesterday, threatens to leave nothing untouched, including the post of new national coach Errol Chan, who authored a roadmap to recovery for a sport that has caught the nation's fancy.

Chan neither confirmed or denied the reports but admitted that a high-ranking official of the Philippine Badminton Association (PBA) has already informed him of the development.

The INQUIRER tried to contact the PBA but was told to fax a formal letter so an interview can be arranged with PBA president Ming Ramos or executive vice president Edgardo Aglipay.

A long-time PBA official who once served as the grassroots development chief, Chan is said to be one of the "threats" to the PBA presidency.

Chan replaced Martin Araneta, who handled the RP team's crammed preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, a stint that led to disastrous results.

Chan had already prepared a two-year program which was to start with the selection of the new RP team depending on their performance in the Philippine Open in May.

Espiritu outkicks field in Angeles City criterium race

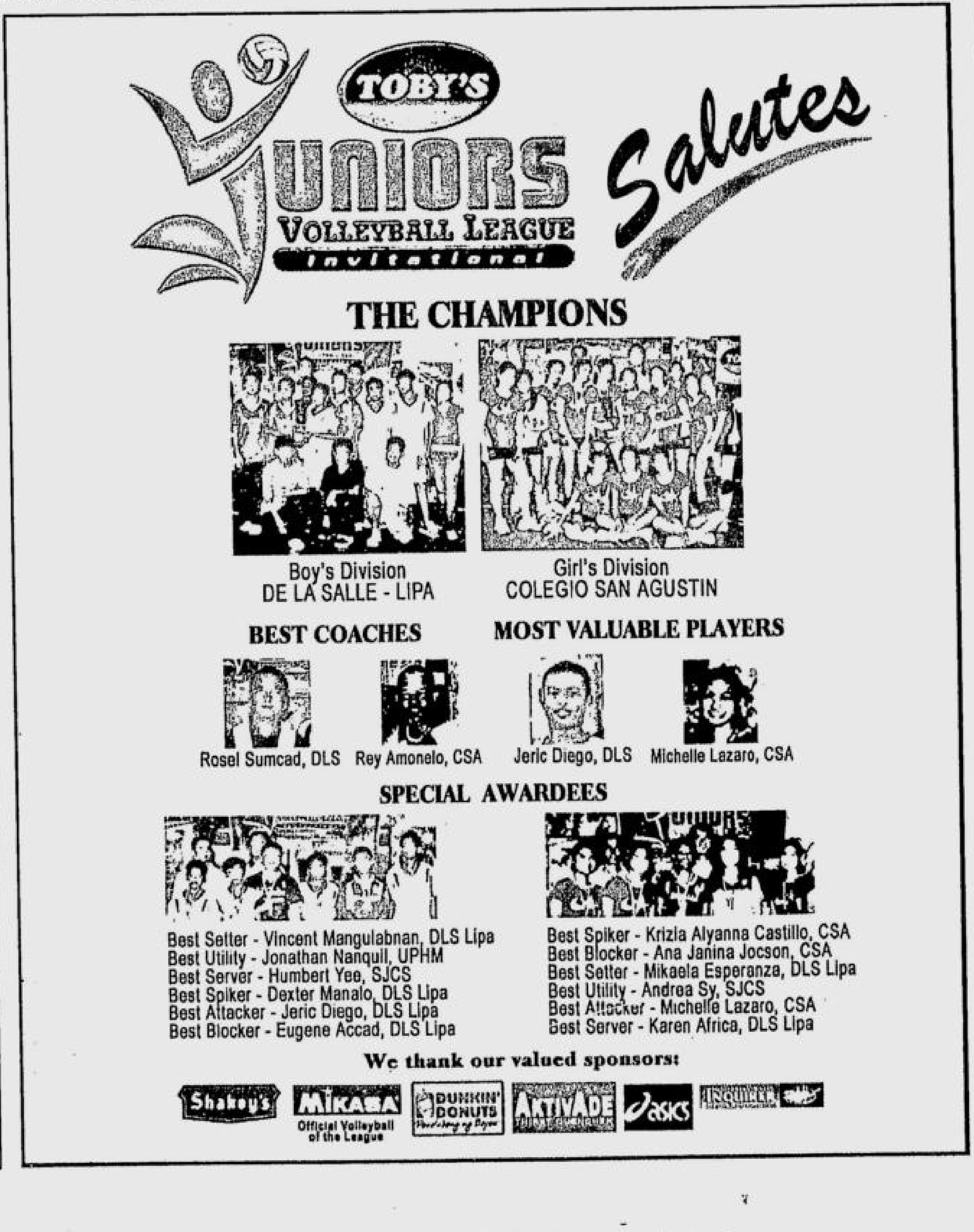
ARMYMAN VICTOR ESPIRITU poured it on in the closing laps to beat Lloyd Reynante and top the third leg in the Philamlife Cycling Search Invitational (CSI) Criterium Race at the Bayanihan Park in Angeles City over the weekend.

Failing to gain headway in the first two stages, Espiritu dished out the form that once made him an Asian champion, amassing 42 points in the 30-lap race, including 10 sprint points, to top the centerpiece men's elite and 23-under division.

Reynante, racing for GHQ-HSC-Ucap, came in second with 39 points while San Leonardo's Bernard Luzon finished third with 36 in the event organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp. and held in cooperation with SM City Clark.

In the masters race, Roel Gendrano outclassed the field with 47 points. Edison Duran finished with 23 while veteran rider Placido Valdez wound up third with 14.

Ninoy Boliser topped the youth race over Rodolfo Malangsa.



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Girl's Division
COLEGIO SAN AGUSTIN

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Rey Amonelo, CSA

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Jeric Diego, DLS
Michelle Lazaro, CSA

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Best Server - Humbert Yee, SJCS
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Best Attacker - Jeric Diego, DLS Lipa
Best Blocker - Eugene Accad, DLS Lipa

Best Spiker - Krizia Alyanna Castillo, CSA
Best Blocker - Ana Janina Jocson, CSA
Best Setter - Mikaela Esperanza, DLS Lipa
Best Utility - Andrea Sy, SJCS
Best Attacker - Michelle Lazaro, CSA
Best Server - Karen Africa, DLS Lipa

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Makati 3-cock derby today

LEADING COCKERS and breeders from Pasay, Parañaque, Mandaluyong and Makati collide today in a 3-cock derby at the Makati Coliseum, with B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. The first of 78 fights starts at 4 p.m. in the derby hosted by the ABC Liga Group in cooperation with Capt. Pete Ison and the WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. Last Monday, the Victoria Peak entry of Richard Bates and retired Col. Nicetas Katigbak racked up five straight wins to rule the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines 5-cock derby. Meanwhile, more than 100 fights are expected on Monday in the Jobo 5-cock derby at the venue. Call 896-3545 or 896-6475.

70 fights up in San Juan

THE GENTLEMEN COCKers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby gets going today with 70 fights at the San Juan Coliseum sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Leading the GCAP Cocker of the Year race are Jun Topacio (JT Emerald) and Rep. Butch Pichay and Rey Briones (Spartans Pichay) with 15 points each. But Patrick Antonio, fresh off his victory in the Araw ng Davao 7-cocker recently, is in second spot with 14. Up next at SJC is a 3-cocker on March 27.

TNT couldn't afford to lose

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

ABOARD THE Philippine Air Lines Flight 300 from Manila to Hong Kong, where the Talk 'N Text-Purefoods match was to be staged over the weekend, random thoughts were running through my mind.

I was imagining myself in the shoes of newly appointed Phone Pals coach Derrick Pumaren, who I know must be feeling tremendous pressure going into his third game in the PBA Gran Matador Philippine Cup.

Before last Sunday's match, Derrick had lost two straight games (to Ginebra and Air21), and won none. There was no assurance that the record wouldn't go from bad to worse—from 0-2 to 0-3—an unthinkable scenario not only for Derrick but also for TNT governor Ricky Vargas, who had strongly batted for the veteran coach inside the PLDT board room.

My thoughts went to Ricky, who must be just as pressured as Derrick to deliver. From what I know, it was Ricky who had recommended Derrick over Chot Reyes after a deep and lengthy deliberation.

At the end of the day, PLDT head honcho Manny V. Pangilinan trusted Ricky's judgment and basketball instincts.

In like manner, Ricky granted TNT's new coach blanket authority to do what he deemed best for the team.

Derrick made drastic and minor changes in the system, and in composition of the line-up and the coaching staff.

Talk 'N Text couldn't afford to lose in Hong Kong. Aside from the dismal 0-2 record that needed improvement, PLDT Global was sponsoring the PBA-on-TOUR sortie. PLDT Global's good-looking president and CEO Al Panlilio, a former cager, had even invited several media members from Manila to grace the weekend sporting event.

* * *

The media group arrived in Hong Kong Saturday noon and was whisked off to the Marco Polo Prince Hotel in Kowloon, where they were each presented a copy of the weekend sked prepared by executive secretary Tina de Quintos: Dinner at the classy and exclusive Aberdeen Marina at 6 p.m. hosted by MVP, TNT-Purefoods game the following day, Sunday, at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium, and dinner at 8:30 p.m. at the famous Springdeer Restaurant, compliments of Ricky Vargas, the PBA's next chair.

A few hours before the Aberdeen dinner, we were informed that our host would not be able to join us, due to a very pressing matter that had kept him in Manila. MVP said he would try to be in Hong Kong for the game.

Although we had looked forward to shooting the breeze with the country's business genius (whose network is currently No. 1 in terms of revenue), Ricky, Al, Atty. Paul Gueco and Dr. Raffy Bejar more than compensated for his absence.

We also enjoyed Chinese dishes which, Al said, was personally chosen by MVP: suckling pig, steamed red Garoupa, sautéed scallops with asparagus, etc.

* * *

An army of wildly-screaming fans—predominantly female—gathered by the entrance of the Queen Elizabeth Stadium when our bus arrived for the game. They thought the vehicle was carrying PBA cagers.

They were not disappointed though, when the other bus arrived, carrying the Purefoods team. It took a while before the Chunkee Giants could get past the adoring fans and into the stadium. PFC team manager Alvin Patrimonio came in last but he continued to draw the biggest raves.

Inside the stadium, a *Pinay* asked if she could sit beside me. She asked where Kris Aquino was seated. I told her she was not in Hong Kong. She asked me why and I told her I didn't know. She admitted she was a showbiz fan but claimed that she also followed basketball closely.

The *Pinay* OFW, who has been working in the former British territory since 1980, asked which team James Yap was playing for. She had a lot of questions. I was relieved when the second quarter buzzer sounded and we had to leave our seats on the invitation of ABC-5 exec Winston de la Cruz to get some snacks at a nearby hotel.

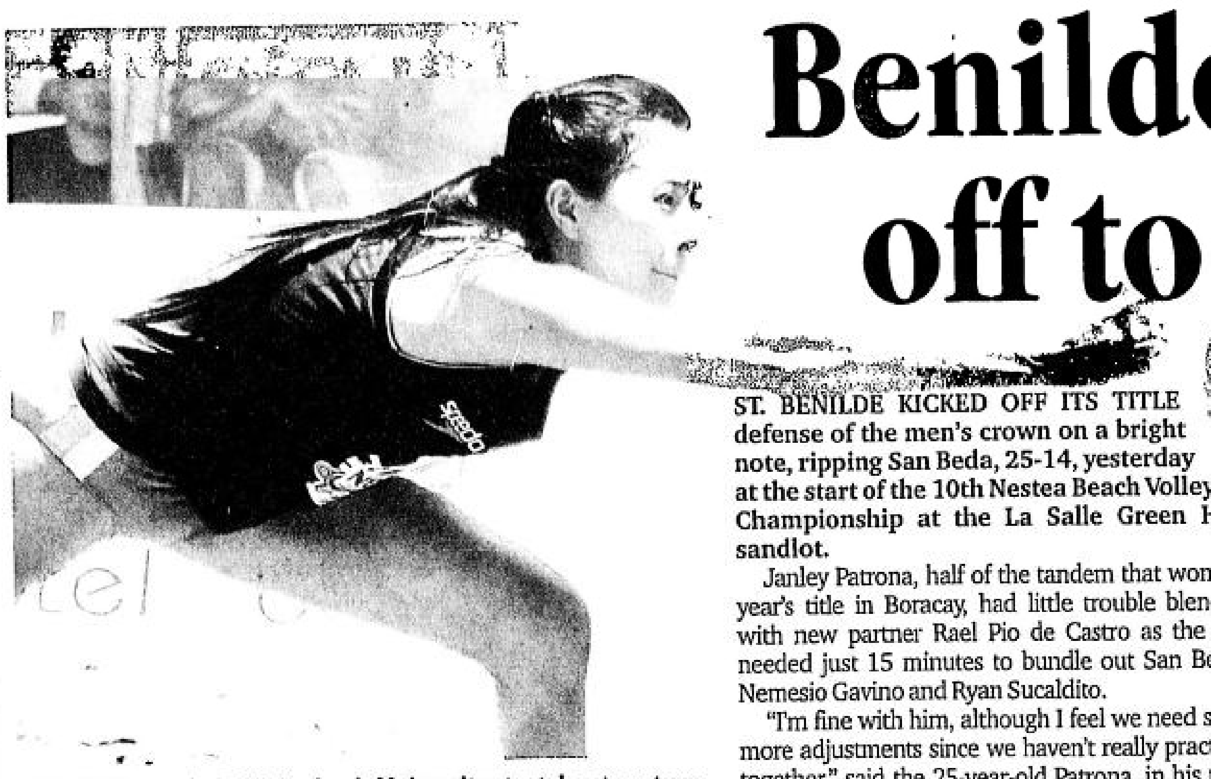
The final score of the Hong Kong game may have been lopside—88-66, in favor of TNT—but the match was truly exciting.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Patutina (4), Magic Ewan Ko (1), Through The Fire (5), Danielle's Angel (7)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Special Science (10), Gutsy (1), West N Wild (5), Eden's Quest (9), Collective Dreams (8)
Race 3—(Pentafecta/Qrt/Tri)—Friendly Venture (3), Concorde (8), Mas Que Nada (4), Time Deposit (6), Hidalgo/Carlito's Way (7)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Playmaker (2), Condoleeza (12), Baling Ganda (8), Maragul (4), Sapterenean (11)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Samahan (2), Epic Energy (3), Magic Bullet (5), The Strategist (1), Run Doding Fly (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Casanova (9), Speed Highness (10), Batong Silyar (1), Sound Value (2), Five O'Clock (11)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Classy Pages/Tiger Raffy (10), Allysa's Choice/Kai Maki (4), Hard To Find (1), Vantage (3), Gone With The Wind (5)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ocean Cookie (7), Aminin (1), Il Amorosa (3), Stradivarius (4), Imperator (9)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Royal Rose (9), Golden Act (4), Angel Eyes (11), All Powerful (3), Bold Lucky (6), Skip Away (12)

Benilde spikers off to hot start



SARAH Macatulad of Saint Louis University stretches to return a spike at the La Salle Green Hills sandlot. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

ST. BENILDE KICKED OFF ITS TITLE defense of the men's crown on a bright note, ripping San Beda, 25-14, yesterday at the start of the 10th Nestea Beach Volley Championship at the La Salle Green Hills sandlot.

Janley Patrona, half of the tandem that won last year's title in Boracay, had little trouble blending with new partner Rael Pio de Castro as the pair needed just 15 minutes to bundle out San Beda's Nemesio Gavino and Ryan Sucaldito.

"I'm fine with him, although I feel we need some more adjustments since we haven't really practiced together," said the 25-year-old Patrona, in his third stint in this annual event presented by Nestea.

Thirty-six pairs are vying in this year's edition of the popular summer sport, 18 each in the men's and women's divisions. Sixteen of them come from Luzon, 12 from the Visayas and eight from Mindanao. The teams are eyeing tickets to the Boracay leg slated May 4 to 6.

In other games, Letran nipped San Sebastian, 28-26; Philippine Christian U defeated La Salle, 25-17 and St. Francis of Assisi beat University of the Cordilleras, 25-20 in the men's side. In the women's side, Adamson ripped PCU, 25-16; Lyceum crushed St. Jude College, 25-8; UTC whipped Lyceum B, 25-10; and University of Baguio ambushed St. Louis University, 25-15.

Amazing Thai rider steals show from Aguilar, NZ ace

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A VASTLY IMproved Arnon Theplib of Thailand relegated the rivalry between the Philippines' top rider Glenn Aguilar of Caltex-Revtex and New Zealand ace James Robinson to a mere footnote Sunday as he ruled the 3rd Mayor Edward Hagedorn Cup in the 2006 Motocross Masters of Asia Sunday at the Puerto Princesa International Raceway here.

The youngest in the 23-man international field at 17, Theplib displayed skills way beyond his years to win unchallenged in both motos.

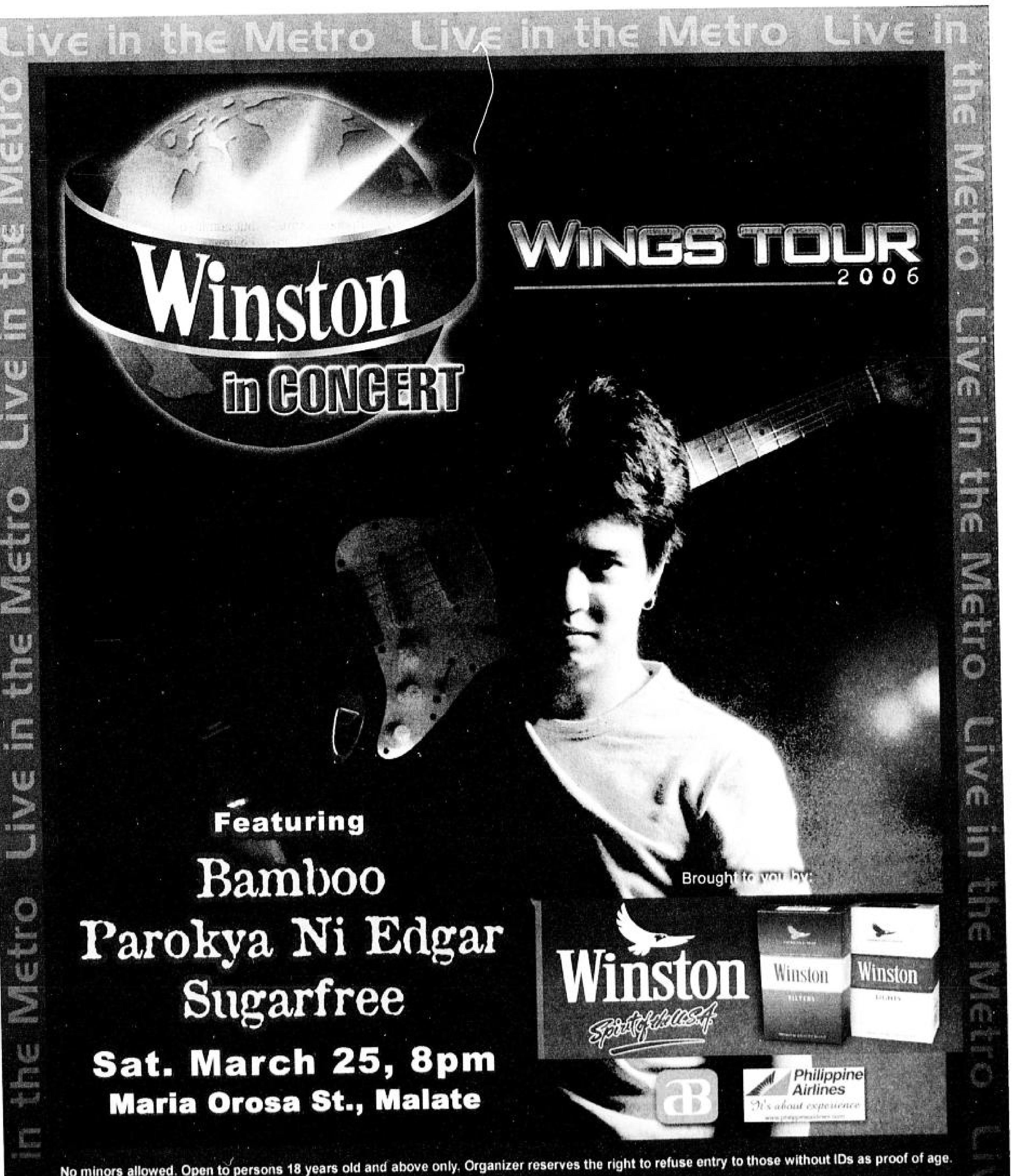
Not even runner-up Jye Harvey of Australia came close to beating Theplib, who amassed 50 points for his victory.

Indonesian Aep Dadang Supriatna wound up third with 40 points in both races.

Theplib, posting the fastest laptime of 1:21.932, wrapped up the nine-lap morning race in 23 minutes and 47.217 seconds, 4.66 seconds ahead of Harvey. He was more explosive in the afternoon where he clocked 24:16.605, pulling away early and claiming the checkered flag seven seconds ahead of Harvey, who earned 44 points.

Aguilar and Robinson, however, struggled for position in both races. Aguilar settled for fourth overall with 36 points, his best finish—fourth place—coming in the morning race, while Robinson wound up eighth overall.

PBA's MR. 100 PERCENT Norman Black (center, back row) shows how to dribble low during a mini cage clinic at the opening of the Sportshouse Sporstacle at the Atrium of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong recently. The clinic which ends today will also be graced by players from Red Bull and the PBL's Granny Goose.



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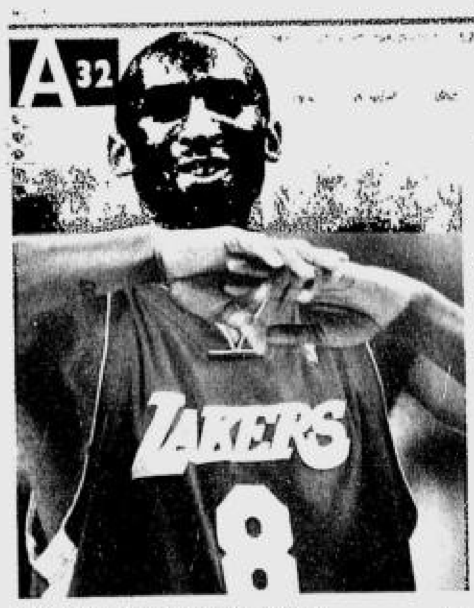

BRYANT: Shots fell this time. AP

Kobe helps Lakers pocket 'must-win' game

BOSTON—KOBE BRYANT HAD 43 points, five rebounds and five steals and the Los Angeles Lakers salvaged the finale of a three-game road trip with a 105-97 win over the Boston Celtics in the NBA on Monday.

Bryant shot 18-of-39 and Lamar Odom added 17 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who never trailed and pulled a half-game ahead of Sacramento for seventh place in the Western Conference.

The Lakers avoided falling below .500 for the first time since a loss to Utah on Jan. 3 dropped them to 15-16.

"This was a must win for us," Bryant said. "We played well the entire trip, but it's just that we weren't able to close things out. Tonight was a win that we desperately needed."

Paul Pierce scored 26 and Tony Allen added a season-high 18 points for the Celtics, who have lost four of five to drop four games behind Philadelphia in the race for the eighth Eastern Conference playoff spot.

The Lakers' first two games of their road trip ended with missed contested 3-pointers by Bryant. The Lakers lost to New Jersey, 92-89, on Friday and to Cleveland, 96-95, on Sunday.

Bryant scored 16 points in the fourth quarter, including the Lakers' last 12.

"When the game is on the line, they put the ball in my hands," Bryant said. "I've gotta do what I've gotta do, I don't care if it's 50 shots, 60 shots, five shots."

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rasheed Wallace had 26 points and eight rebounds to help Detroit clinch the Central Division title via a 91-84 triumph over Atlanta.

Detroit (53-13) also reduced its magic number to clinch the Eastern Conference's best record to nine over Miami.

In other games, the LA Clippers tripped the Houston Rockets, 99-91, while Milwaukee defeated Portland, 100-93. *AP*

- **NBA ON TV:**

SOLAR SPORTS—Golden State vs San Antonio (9:30 a.m. live, replay on March 23, 5:30 p.m.)

SPORTS PLUS—Phoenix vs Utah (11:30 a.m. live, 7:30 p.m. replay)

Houston vs Dallas (9:30 p.m. delayed telecast, replay on March 23, 2:30 p.m.)

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SHOWERED by confetti, Team Japan reaches up to get a feel of the championship trophy. REUTERS

WORLD BASEBALL

Japan smears Cuban repute

SAN DIEGO—ICHIRO SUZUKI and his less-famous Japanese countrymen beat Cuba, 10-6, in the World Baseball Classic final on Monday.

Cuba had won 22 of 24 games in international competition and dominated the globe for decades, but they cracked at the worst possible time against a team which reached the semifinals only after the United States was upset by Mexico.

In the Classic's inaugural final, Japan led, 6-1, Cuba rallied to within one to make it exciting, then Japan ran away for good with four runs at the top of the ninth.

When reliever Akinori Otsuka got the final out, he was mobbed near the mound by his teammates. The Japanese then tossed Sadaharu Oh, their manager, into the air twice.

"I'm unbelievably happy," Ichiro said. "To be honest, I never imagined we'd get there. We had a great team, the best. I hope we showed everyone what a great sport baseball is."

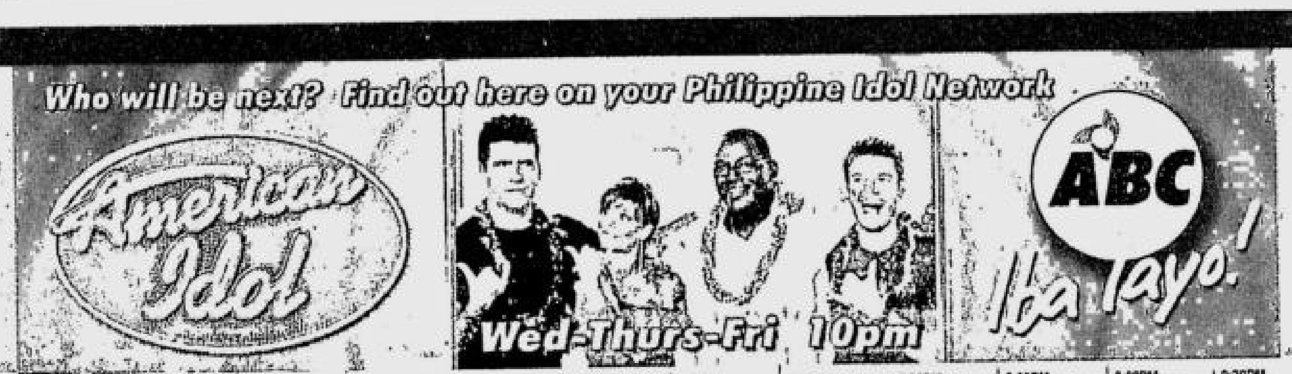
Two Cuban players posed with Ichiro for a photo.

"I never coached a team for a tournament like this, and never thought the pressure to be so high," Oh said. "Baseball is the best sport. Everyone has to work together. There is nothing more wonderful than that Japanese players did such a wonderful job and showed that to everyone in the world."

After the winners took a victory lap with a huge Japanese flag, they celebrated in front of their dugout, with a large contingent of countrymen still cheering from the stands. Once in their clubhouse, they gathered around Oh for a final word from their manager, then tore into a champagne celebration.

"It's wonderful. That's the only thing I can say," Otsuka said. *AP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Wednesday, March 22, 2006


Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		S.O.C.O.			Insider
AXN		Mondo Magic	Boarding Pass	Next Action Star		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Cold Squad		Amazon		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	The Amazing Race (Season IX)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season 1)	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	Powerpuff Girls		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Andres De Saya				Butakak Ng Maynila				Hari Ng Selda			Persona	Magnifico (9:15 PM)				Six	
Cinemax			The Gorgon			No Secrets (4:50 PM)			Saving Emily (6:20 PM)			Dead Birds			The Relic			A Kiss Before Dying (11:15 PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Crime/Suspense		The Closer		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Good Fellas				Bones	
Discovery Channel		Zero Hour		American Chopper		The Girl With The X-Ray Eyes		Great Quakes		Wild Discovery		Hour China		The History Of Singapore		A Haunting		Great Quakes	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unlikeable Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Buzz on Maggie	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '05 BCA Open 9-Ball Champ'ships		Pool Snooker Masters Cup 2003		X-Games Files '03	X-Games Files	Motorsport Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Sportscenter Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Motorsport Asia	LPGA Golf Safeway Int'l Presented by Coca-Cola 3rd rd				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Average Joe		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars		Beauty & The Geek		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Marriage Works in Christ	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Faith In Motion	Adventures In Odyssey	EWTN Original Productions	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Defending Life	EWTN Gallery	In The Heart Of The Church	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Catholic Social Teaching	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15 PM)	Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	Le Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon		Jewel In The Palace		Nuts Entertainment			Sakal
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Family Law III		Mystery Woman: Snapshot			Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Family Plan			Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Strong Medicine
HBO				Something's Gotta Give					New On The Big Screen In March	Hollywood Homicide				Vampire In Brooklyn			Spider-Man 2 (10:45 PM)		
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Beyblade	Crush Gear Turbo	Angelic Layer	Tokyo Underground	Metal Fighter Miku	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Tokyo Underground	Metal Fighter Miku
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		PTA Best Of The Philippines		Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Heat		Velocity		X-Men	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	My Name Is Earl	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Primetime Glick	Chappelle Show
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Fine Living Special		Intimate Portrait	
MTV Philippines	Jams	Seasons: Orange & Lemons	MTV Hits		The 70's House	Pop Inc		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits			Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL			Laguna Beach	Got Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG		Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Aliens From The Ground Up	Hunter Hunted		Interpol Investigates		Science Times		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Tomorrow's World/Nat'l Geographic Specials: Animal Omens		Hunter Hunted: Kodiak Killer/Stalked By Sharks		Interpol Investigates	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Reality OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Wicker Park (Dubbed in Tagalog)				Mag-asawa				Masarap Masakit ang Umibig				Tupang Itim				Bayad Na Halik
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zentrix	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene	Romance
RPN 9	TV Shopping					Global Window		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Three Wishes		Extreme Makeover		Newswatch Now	Basketball Show	Money Talk	Kerygma
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		SBN Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports		Dunlop Open 2006		WTA 2006 Tour [illegible] Round Robin			Fight	KOTV	NBA Jam	Sagupaan	Boxing: H. Rahman vs. J. Toney	Sportsdesk					Sportsdesk	IBF [illegible] Dbls Finals	
Sports Plus		Inside the PGA	FIFA Preview Series 5	Arena Football: Dallas @ Orlando						NBA Game Phoenix @ Utah					NBA Game Houston @ Dallas				
Star Movies			Iron Will (3:25 PM)			Laws Of Attraction (5:15 PM)				Enemy Of The State (6:50 PM)				Faultline			Bram Stoker's Dracula		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		American Idol		Star News Asia	Seinfeld	American Idol		Medical Investigation/Kanye West Live & Orchestral At Abbey Road		Smallville		Seinfeld	American Idol
Studio 23	Bewitched	Masked Rider Ryuki		Duel Masters		Batman Beyond	Xiaolin Showdown	Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI (8:20 PM)	Life As We Know It (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		The Men's Room

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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'Don't bench me'

Martin unhappy about diminished role on 'ASAP'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THERE'S SO MUCH I CAN DO WITH OR without the show having to be about me. I'm one of those players who can make the three-point shot. If you want me on your team, use me; don't bench me."

Martin Nievera was telling a group of entertainment writers on Saturday how neglected he was feeling for being one of the "less-used artists" on ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime variety show, "ASAP '05."

Martin, his ex-wife Pops Fernandez, Ariel Rivera and former Miss Universe Dayanara Torres, were the first hosts of the program launched in the early '90s.

The current edition of the show has over 30 hosts led by Zsa Zsa Padilla, Gary Valenciano and Kuh Ledesma.

"Back then, everything revolved around [the four main hosts]," Martin recalled. "Now, [I'm among] the less-used artists. Tomorrow (Sunday, March 19) I'm singing Adam Sandler's 'Grow Old With You' for the [segment on the] wedding of Claudine [Barretto] and Raymart [Santiago]. I have an album of wedding songs that became a double gold, and I have to sing that?"

Interviewed later, Deo Endrinal, network vice president for Talk, Variety, and Reality argued that Martin had committed only six dates for "ASAP" this year—two in February, three in April and one in May.

Theory

Endrinal said the production team hadn't counted on Martin's availability on March 19. "We were told a week earlier. We couldn't just suddenly change the concept of the show, which was for Claudine. We asked Martin to sing Raymart's favorite song."

Martin had a theory: "If you ask ABS-CBN why these things are happening, they'll say, 'It's because Martin is never here.' Try throwing me an offer—don't wait for me to be available."

"Martin is like an icon for the program," Endrinal conceded. We'd like to honor him as often as possible, [to mark] every milestone in his career. We know that his dream is to really make it big internationally. We're always here to help him promote himself."

Martin stressed that he didn't want out: "I'm not telling the people [running the show] how to do their jobs; I'm offering my services. If you need another male host, I'm your guy."

He added: "Believe it or not, I'm very faithful. I'm a team player. Do you know how many offers I've gotten from the other side? A lot. They're offering me a lot more than what I'm making right now. ABS-CBN has never offered me a contract."

The gathering on Saturday was to announce Martin's fundraising concert on March 29 at the Manila Peninsula in Makati City, to benefit 9-month-old Gaia Bianca Pasamba, who needs a liver transplant.

Do your fans notice?

I get a lot of feedback from fans. They ask, 'Why did this one get a solo and you didn't?' I tell them, 'Don't worry about it. It's a team effort.' It's because of the fans that I feel this

DON'T/ A2-6

MARTIN Nievera says **ABS-CBN** has never offered him a contract.

OPENING TODAY

Nanny McPhee

Stars Emma Thompson, Colin Firth, Angela Lansbury

Directed by Kirk Jones

Screenwriter-actress Thompson adapts Christianna Brand's "Nurse Matilda" books, published from 1964 to 1974, and envisions the titular heroine as a "Mary Poppins for the Hogwarts generation." A magical nanny (Thompson) invades the household of a recently widowed father (Firth) and disciplines his unruly children. Michael Phillips of the Chicago Tribune opines that "the enjoyment of watching [this film] comes less from story matters and more from appreciating a top-shelf cast having a ball." E! Online describes it as a "witty, rollicking kids' movie that adults will enjoy, too." Wesley Morris of the Boston Globe says Thompson and director Jones "balance the slapstick and levity with darker enchantments. At its most enjoyable, [it] feels like 'Mary Poppins' and 'The Sound of Music' [combined]."

North Country

Stars Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand, Sissy Spacek, Sean Bean

Directed by Niki Caro

With three Oscar Best Actress winners in its cast, this film was bound to tackle a socially relevant issue: sexual harassment in the workplace,

OPENING/ A2-4

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3: Vendetta
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* 30-month holding period.
** Number must begin with '8' and is subject to availability; does not apply to vanity numbers.

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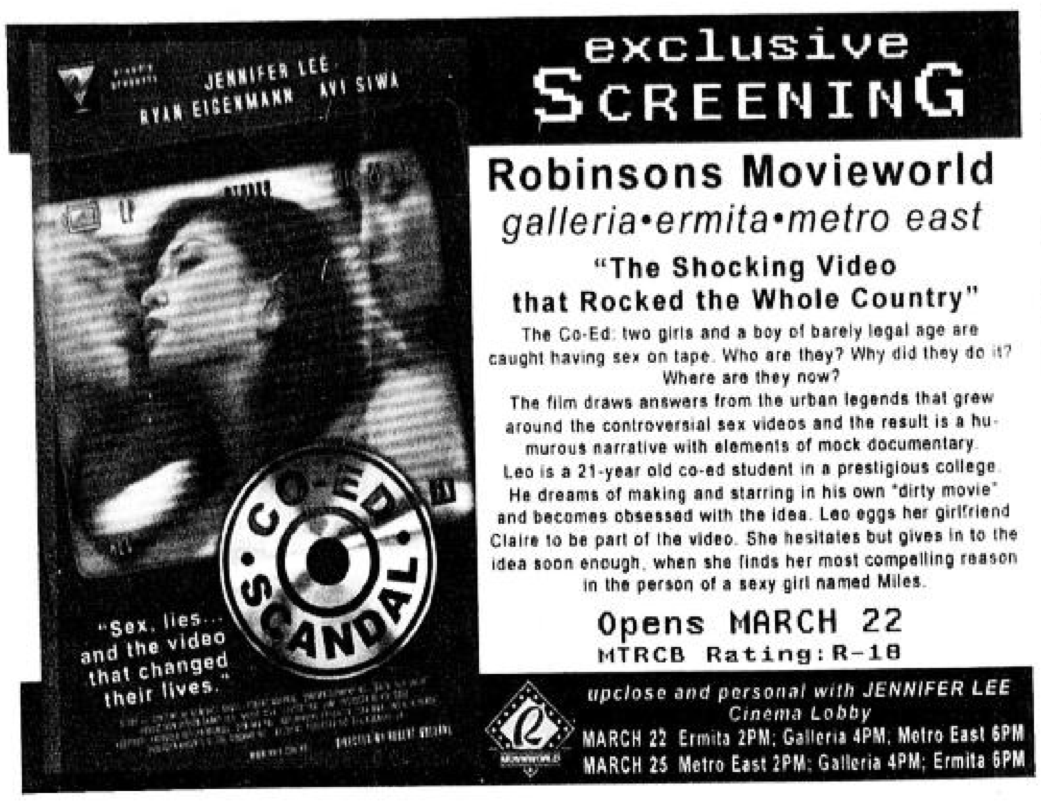
JENNIFER LEE
RYAN EIGENMANN AVI SIWA

"Sex, lies... and the video that changed their lives."

CO-ED SCANDAL

exclusive SCREENING

Robinsons Movieworld
galleria•ermita•metro east

"The Shocking Video that Rocked the Whole Country"

The Co-Ed: two girls and a boy of barely legal age are caught having sex on tape. Who are they? Why did they do it? Where are they now?

The film draws answers from the urban legends that grew around the controversial sex videos and the result is a humurous narrative with elements of mock documentary.

Leo is a 21-year old co-ed student in a prestigious college. He dreams of making and starring in his own "dirty movie" and becomes obsessed with the idea. Leo eggs her girlfriend Claire to be part of the video. She hesitates but gives in to the idea soon enough, when she finds her most compelling reason in the person of a sexy girl named Miles.

Opens MARCH 22
MTRCB Rating: R-18

upclose and personal with JENNIFER LEE
Cinema Lobby
MARCH 22 Ermita 2PM; Galleria 4PM, Metro East 6PM
MARCH 25 Metro East 2PM; Galleria 4PM; Ermita 6PM

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NANNY McPHEE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
ULTRAVIOLET 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
NORTH COUNTRY 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
V FOR VENDETTA 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
SHAGGY DOG 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10
ULTRAVIOLET 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10
SHE'S THE MAN 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
HOSTEL 1:20 / 3:25 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40
DATE MOVIE 7:30 / 9:40
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ALIMALL CINEMAS

1 V FOR VENDETTA 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
2 ULTRAVIOLET 12:05 R2 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
3 NANNY McPHEE 12:05 R2 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
4 HOSTEL 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35
5 THE FEARLESS 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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3 (DOLBY) NORTH COUNTRY R13
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(DOLBY) SHE'S THE MAN PG13

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3 (DTS) NORTH COUNTRY
4 GOLD (DTS) V FOR VENDETTA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SHE'S THE MAN
6 GOLD (SDDS) ULTRAVIOLET
7 GOLD (DOLBY) NANNY MCPHEE
8 (DOLBY STEREO) HOSTEL
9 (DOLBY STEREO) GLORY ROAD
10 (DOLBY STEREO) 16 BLOCKS

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4 (DOLBY) GLORY ROAD

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5 ULTRAVIOLET

metropolis star cinema
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2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 VENDETTA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

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2 DATE MOVIE
3 FEARLESS

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2 (DOLBY) ULTRAVIOLET
3 (DOLBY) NANNY MCPHEE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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1 SHAGGY DOG
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2 CASANOVA
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2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

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2 DATE MOVIE
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4 THE DARK D/W HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

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1 CASANOVA
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2 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 (DTS) CASANOVA
4 THE DARK

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2 DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) FEARLESS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 DATE MOVIE
2 CASANOVA
3 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX
4 (DTS) TIGER BLADE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SAW-2
3 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
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2 DATE MOVIE

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3 MURDER
4 (DTS) PLEASE CALL

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1 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 (DTS) CASANOVA
4 THE DARK
5

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CASANOVA
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 DATE MOVIE
4 SHAGGY DOG

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 PLEASE CALL

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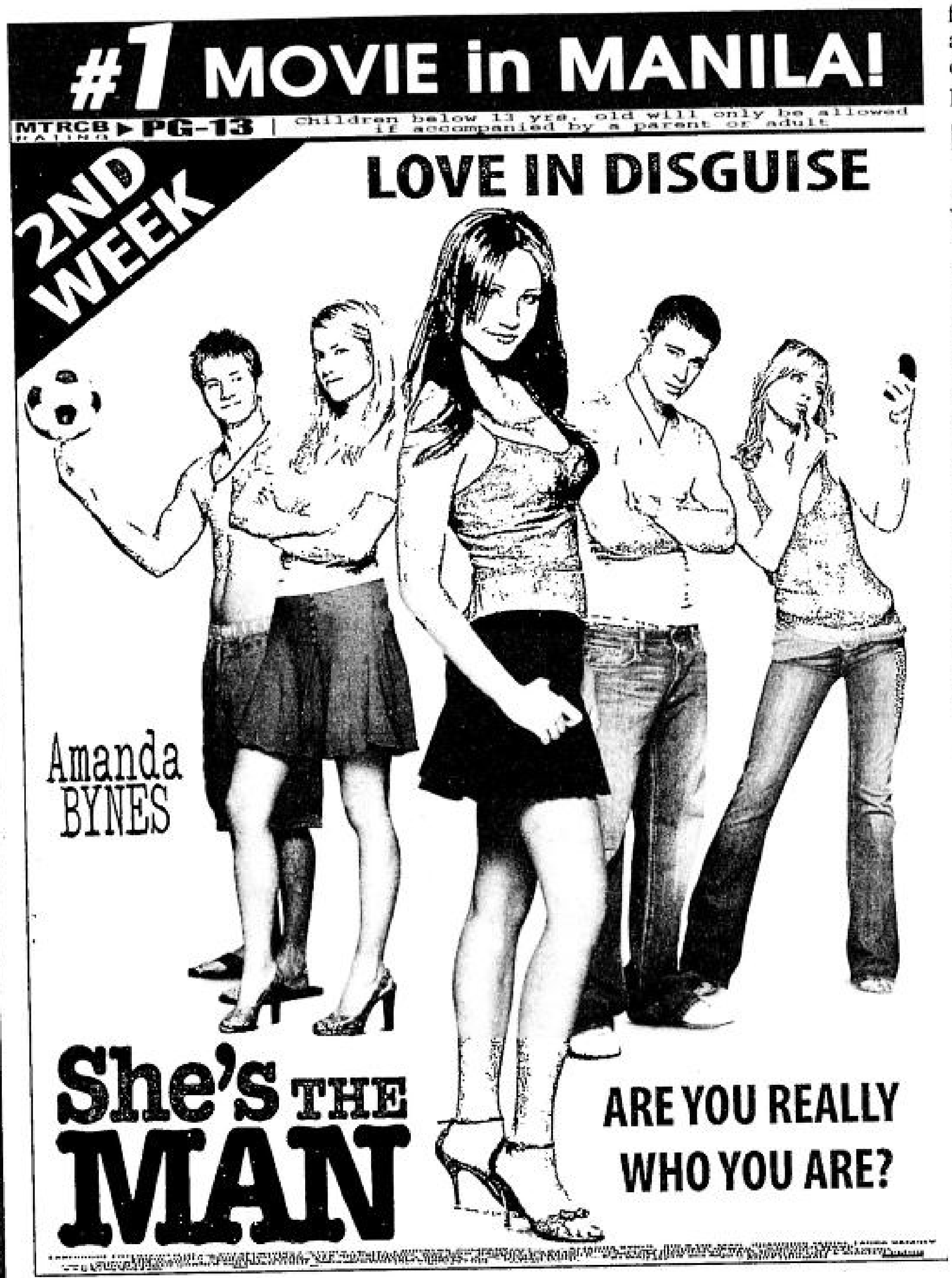
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MTRCB RATING PG-13 | children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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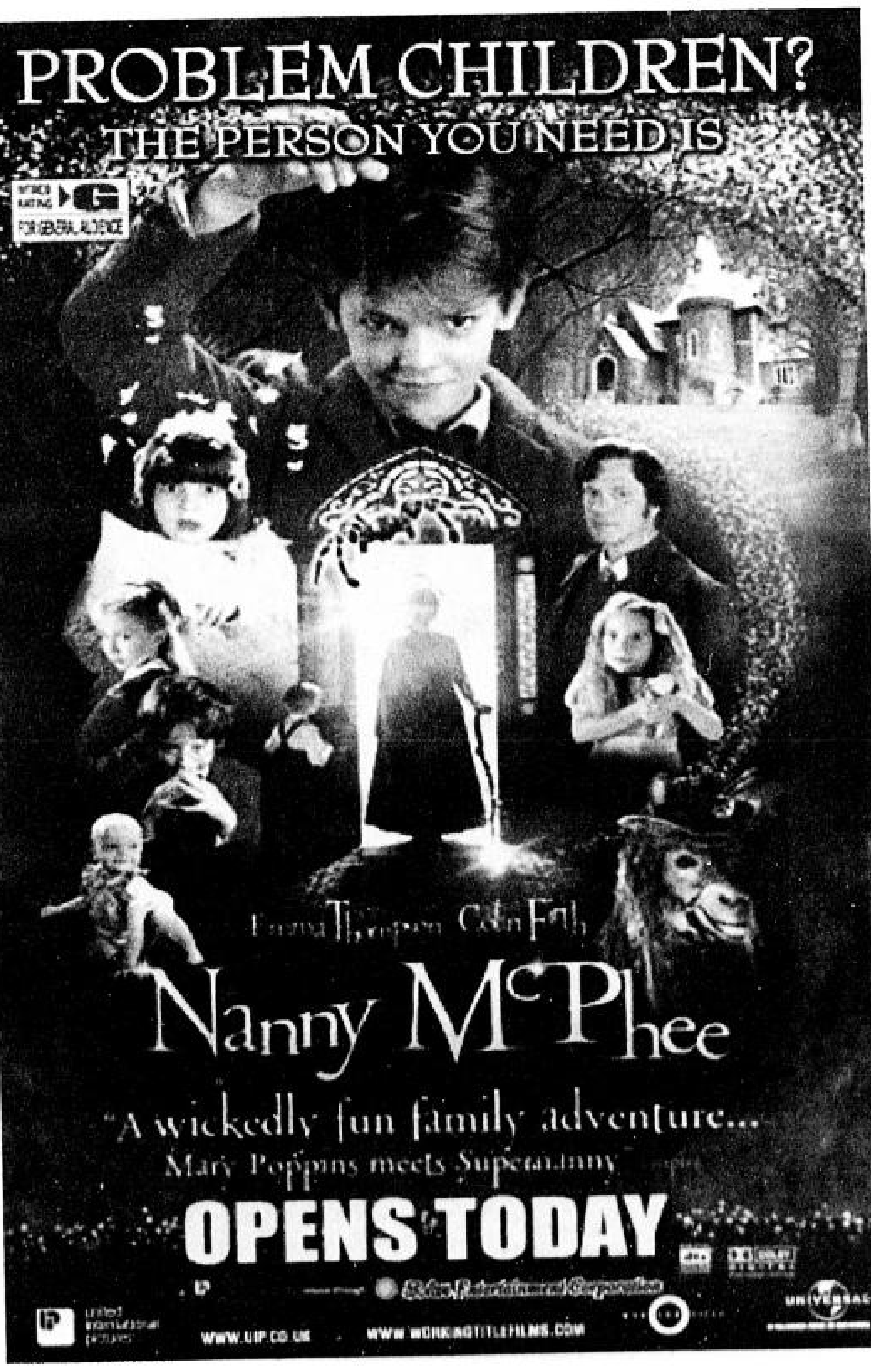
She's THE MAN
ARE YOU REALLY WHO YOU ARE?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Endearing

From Victoria Francisco (victoriafrancisco@netzero.net), New York, New York:

I disagree with Natalia Cruz's view that we should not claim Melody and Cheryl Burke as ours because they're technically Americans, not Filipinos. Don't the Irish claim the Kennedys; the Italians, Al Pacino and Francis Ford Coppola? If Melody and Cheryl proudly claim Filipino heritage, who are we to deny them that? And what if Filipinos eagerly invite them back to the Philippines? Far from "pathetic," it is an endearing Filipino quality to become proud of our own.

Pathetic

From Aldwin Fajardo (aldwin@ptimes.net):

By the sound of her name alone, Natalia Cruz is obviously not Caucasian. She is just an example of a Filipino who left her country and completely forgot where she came from. Here in the US, we are always filling up forms—legal, medical, whatever—that ask for ethnicity. If you have a flat nose and Cruz for a last name, would you write "Caucasian"? What's "pathetic" are the likes of Natalia Cruz. For all we know, she's scrubbing toilets wherever she is right now.

OPM trivia

From Mario Melendez (mario_melendez2003@yahoo.com), California

Regarding the story on Sergio Mendes, I have a trivia question for you. Which monstrous "OPM" hit in the '70s is plagiarized from a bossa nova original? It was composed in 1959 by the father of the bossa nova, Tom Jobim. An incurable fan of the bossa nova here burned from itune two CDs of it, with English and Pinoy versions (at 99 cents per track, *sulit na sulit!*). One Pinoy there is piano "madman" Bobby Enriquez. You gotta hear it! Would be happy to share the music with anyone, if that's legal. You got my e-mail address; give it away!

Lookalikes

From Constante Burgos (tilaok@hotmail.com), San Jose, California

Have you noticed that Julius Babao looks like Yao Ming, Erik Santos is the younger version of Roderick Paulate and Chris Lagman looks like Sweet Lapuz?

Not Sandara

From Melanie de Guzman (aeroholic@hotmail.com), Pasay City

I don't agree [with Viewfinder] that "... Sandara is too good and unique a talent to be consigned to pop oblivion." Are we desperate for box office returns and CD sales that we should consider someone like Sandara Park to be a star?

Powerhouse guests for Mark's concert

SOME OF THE country's best performers are appearing as special guests in Mark Bautista's first major solo concert, "Pop Heartthrob," on Thursday at Aliw Theater.

Sarah Geronimo and Juris Fernandez lead the lineup, which includes Ogie Alcasid, Ruga Mae Quinto and "Star in a Million" finalists Jay Perillo, Jimmy Marquez and Vino Bello.

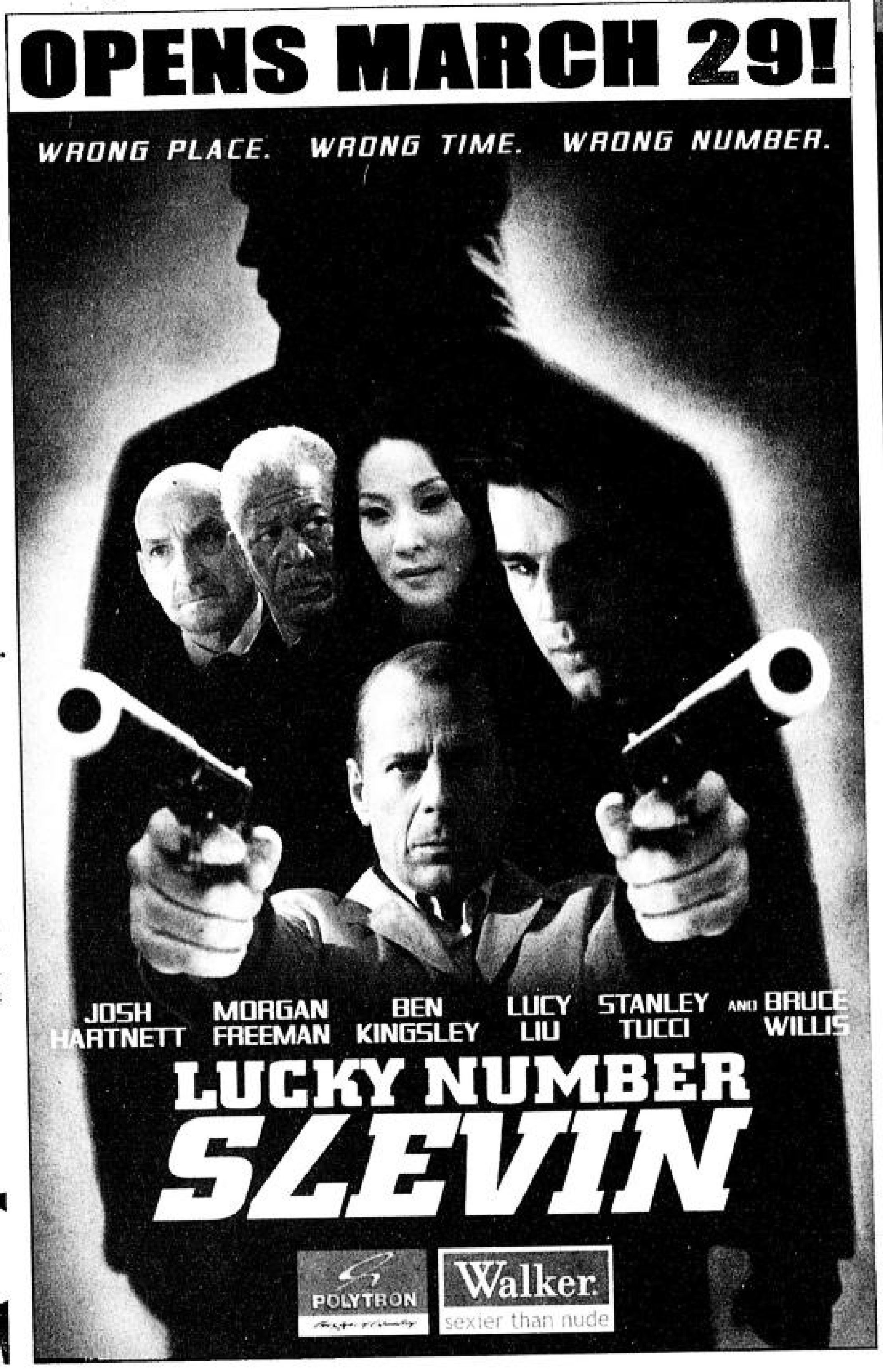
Mark is also looking forward to the participation of a surprise guest, one of his idols in the business. Clue: "He's a Kapamilya, a regular host on [ABS-CBN's] 'ASAP.' I'm so thankful he accepted my invitation."

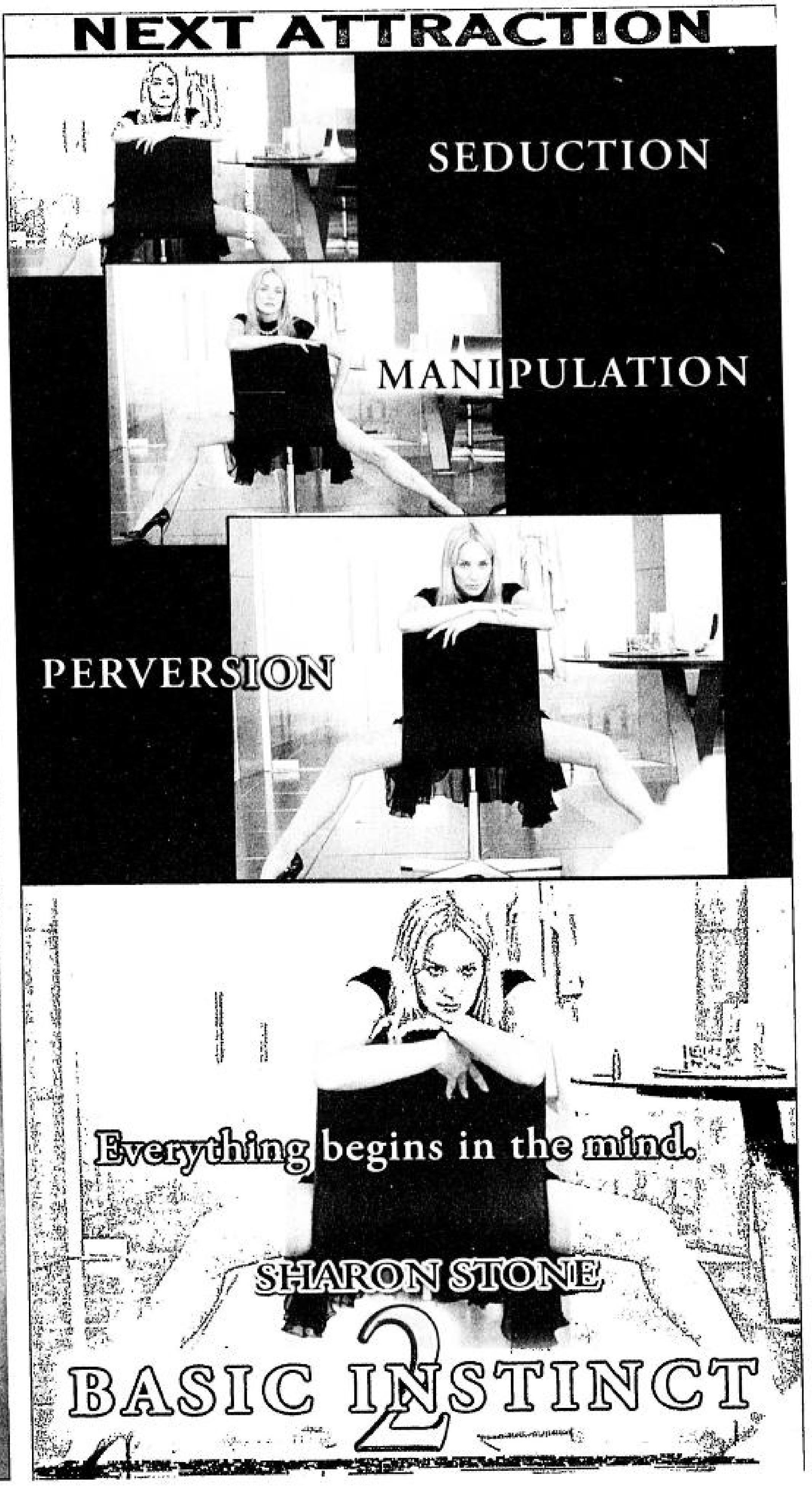
Call 9115555.

'Rat Pack' refund

The "Rat Pack" show previously set March 25 at the Araneta Coliseum has been postponed. Ticket holders can call TicketNet—911-5555 or 374-2222—for refunds and other inquiries.

MARK Bautista


OPENS MARCH 29!
WRONG PLACE. WRONG TIME. WRONG NUMBER.
JOSH HARTNETT
MORGAN FREEMAN
BEN KINGSLEY
LUCY LIU
STANLEY TUCCI
AND BRUCE WILLIS
LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
POLYTRON
Walker
sexier than nude


NEXT ATTRACTION
SEDUCTION
MANIPULATION
PERVERSION
Everything begins in the mind.
SHARON STONE
BASIC INSTINCT 2

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AT THE CINEMAS

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	V FOR VENDETTA	ULTRAVIOLET	SHE'S THE MAN	GLORY ROAD			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	NANNY MCPHEE	SHE'S THE MAN	THX ULTRAVIOLET GUARANTEED SEATS	HOSTEL	GLORY ROAD	NORTH COUNTRY	V FOR VENDETTA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	ULTRAVIOLET	NORTH COUNTRY					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX ULTRAVIOLET GUARANTEED SEATS	THX NORTH COUNTRY GUARANTEED SEATS	GLORY ROAD GUARANTEED SEATS	V FOR VENDETTA GUARANTEED SEATS	NANNY MCPHEE GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX NORTH COUNTRY	NANNY MCPHEE	ULTRAVIOLET	SHE'S THE MAN	GLORY ROAD		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	CASANOVA	LAST HOLIDAY	FINAL DESTINATION 3	SYRIANA			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	ULTRAVIOLET	NORTH COUNTRY	GLORY ROAD	NANNY MCPHEE	SHE'S THE MAN		

At the Activity Center

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MARCH 25 RIVERMAYA
MARCH 31 HALE
APRIL 1 NYOY VOLANTE
APRIL 7 BAMBOO
APRIL 8 SPONGECOLA

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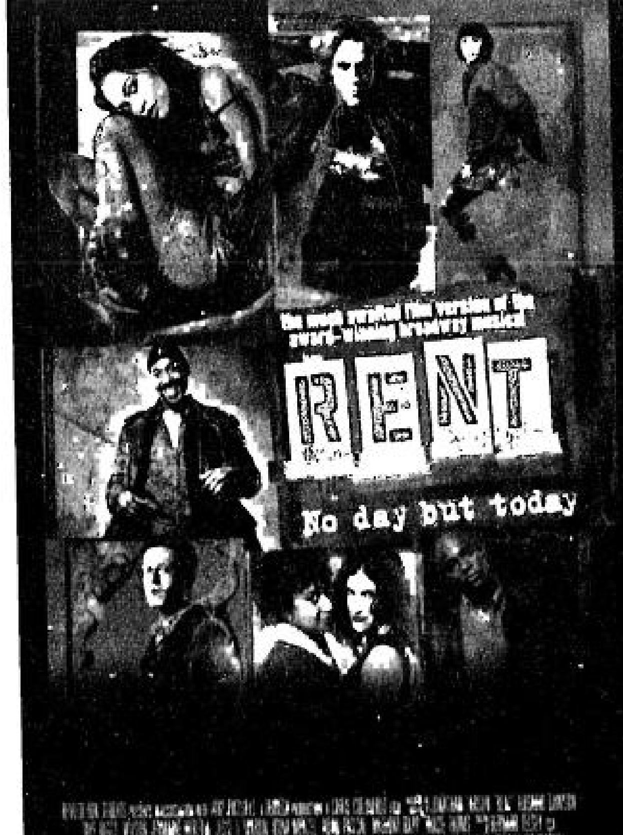
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"TWO THUMBS UP."
— Ebert & Roeper

"MUST SEE FILM OF THE YEAR!"
--- Paul Clinton, CNN

glorietta · GREENBELT · COLUMBIA PICTURES · Ayala Malls

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

S

LOCAL SHOW BUSINESS IDOLizes youth and fresh good looks, but new talents are often callow and shallow, so we look to more mature artists for genuine depth and substance.

Personally, we find great inspiration in our senior artists who are still productive and creative while their contemporaries have long retired or been sidelined by illness.

Take National Artist **Eddie Romero.** He's already in his 80s, but he's currently preparing to shoot his first digital feature. Writing the screenplay for him is young scripting prizewinner **Rica Arevalo.**

We like this fusion of mature and new screen artists, and think it augurs well for our film industry.

We're also happy to hear that **Eddie Garcia** and **Gloria Romero** will co-star once more in a new Seiko Films production. Eddie is in his 80s and Gloria is in her 70s, but they're still raring to give their new film everything they've got.

In the field of television, we're impressed to see senior director **Al Quinn** still megging big projects that much younger directors would just love to get their hands on.

Al's durable plus points are his having been a dancer, and his mastery of the musical and musical-variety modes of production.

The fact that he's also a gifted visual artist helps further explain the striking visuals and artistic quality of his direction.

We're also a fan of Mama **Nene Vera-Perez**, the pioneering pro-

VIEWFIND

Nestor U. Torre

ducer and wido
Pictures' master
Perez, and prou
children, achieve
Mama Nene is
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of **Eddie Rome**
Gloria Romero,
ma Nene Vera-P
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OPENIN

From page A2-1

specifically in the iron mines. This melodrama is a fictionalized retelling of a court case chronicled in Clara Bingham and Laura Leedy Gansler's book "Class Action: The Story of Lois Jensen and the Landmark Case that Changed Sexual Harassment Law." Marc Savlov of the Austin Chronicle compares it to "Norma Rae" and "Silkwood." "It's emotionally charged and rousing stuff... until it hits some third-act stumbles." Rob Vaux of the Flipside Movie Emporium thinks it's "skillful filmmaking standing on a soapbox and pandering to the broadest audience possible." Peter Travers complains: "[It's] "a TV-movie fantasy of female empowerment with soap-opera theatrics."

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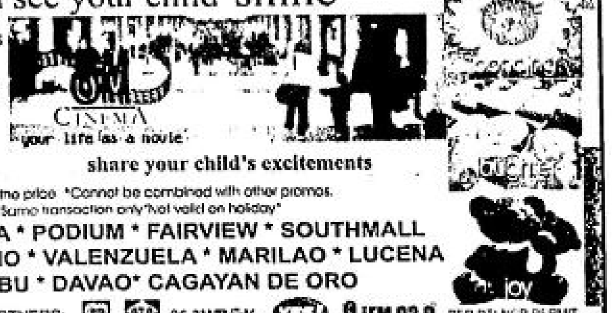

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METRO MANILA

THE PODIUM
NORTH COUNTRY
12:30 FS / 12:50 MF / 03:30
06:10 / 08:20 LFS
08:50 LMF / 11:00 END
NANNY McPHEE
02:00 FS / 02:25 MF / 04:35
06:45 / 8:25LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:40 END

SM MEGACINEMA
1 ULTRAVIOLET
10:15FS / 10:40 MF / 12:30 /
02:10 / 04:10 / 6:00 / 7:50
09;10LFS / 09:40 LMF
11:10 END
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 RENOVATIONNORTH
5 COUNTRYTHE DARK
6 NANNY McPHEE
7 FEARLESS
8 SHAGGY DOG
9 16 BLOCKS
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 THE DARK
12 GLORY ROAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 NANNY McPHEE
2 GLORY ROAD
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 RESERVED
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 V FOR VENDETTA
8 ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE DARK
2 UNDERCLASS MAN
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 FEARLESS
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 THE DARK
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 GLORY ROAD
7 ULTRAVIOLET
8 NANNY McPHEE
9 SHE'S THE MAN
10 16 BLOCKS
11 CLOSE TO YOU
12 SHAGGY DOG

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 GLORY ROAD
4 SHE'S THE MAN
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 FEARLESS
7 NANNY McPHEE
8 16 BLOCKS
9 NORTH COUNTRY
10 SHAGGY DOG

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 NANNY McPHEE
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 NANNY McPHEE

SM CITY MANILA
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 16 BLOCKS
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 SHE'S THE MAN
5 NANNY McPHEE
6 V FOR VENDETTA
7 GLORY ROAD
8 FEARLESS
9 FINAL DESTINATION 3
10 SHAGGY DOG
11 THEN DARK
12 NORTH COUNTRY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 16 BLOCKS
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 NANNY McPHEE
6 GLORY ROAD
7 SHE'S THE MAN
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 FEARLESS
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 16 BLOCKS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 HOUSE OF FURY

SM CITY SUCAT
1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 16 BLOCKS

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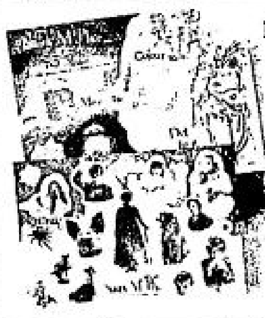

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MTRCB Rating G

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 16 BLOCKS
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 THE DARK
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY MARILAO
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 THE DARK

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FEARLESS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HUSE
3 THE DARK
4 CASANOVA

SM CITY BACOOR
1 FEARLESS
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 GLORY ROAD
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 HOUSE OF FURY
8 BREAKING NEWS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 CASANOVA
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 16 BLOCKS
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 SYRIANA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 THE DARK
6 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY LUCENA
1 FEARLESS
2 UDERCLASS MAN
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 AEON FLUX

SM CITY MOLINO
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 HOUSE OF FURY
4 CRY WOLF

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 SYRIANA
12:00FS / 12:18 MF
02:36 / 04:54
07: 12 / 09:20 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:40 END
2 CASANOVA
11:50FS / 12:00 MF
01:54 / 03:48 / 05:42
07:36/ 09:26 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:20 END
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11:15FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:10 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:10 END
4 LAST HOLIDAY
5 NEW WORLD
6 FEARLESS
7 V FOR VENDETTA
8 HOUSE OF FURY

SM CITY ILOILO
1 FEARLESS
2 RESERVED
3 SYRIANA
4 CRY WOLF
5 V FOR VENDETTA
6 SHAGGY DOG
7 RESERVED
8 PRIDE & PREJUDICE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 BIG MOMMA'S HOSE
2 GOAL
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 PRIDE & PREJUDICE
6 NEW WORLD

SM CITY CAGAYAN
1 NEW WORLD
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 16 BLOCKS
4 YOUR'S MINE & OURS

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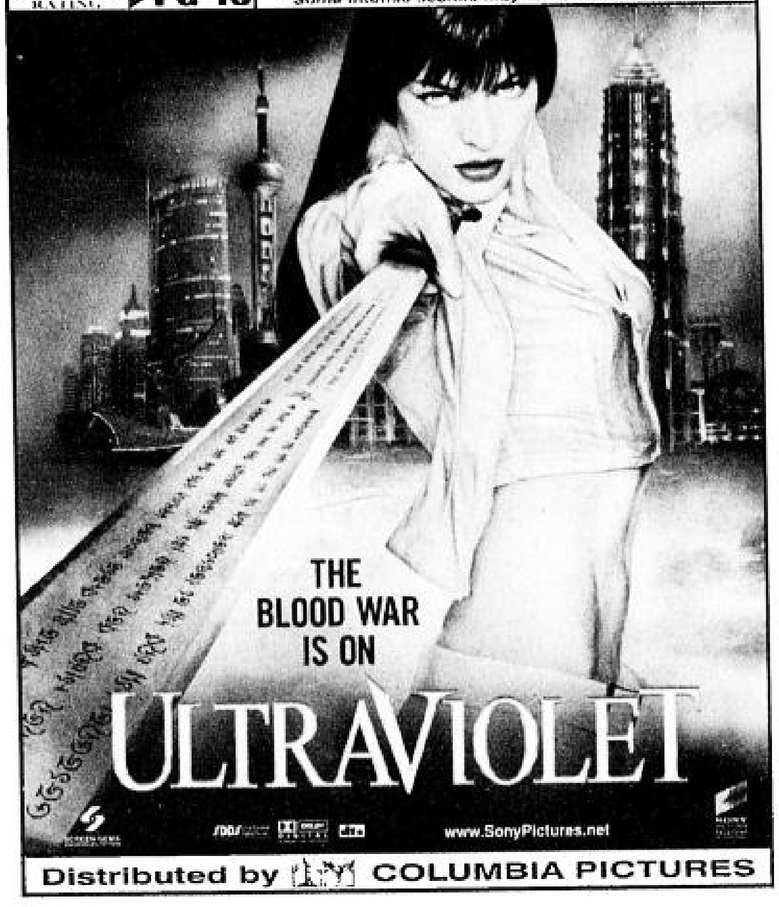
SHE'S THE MAN PG13	NANNY MCPHEE G	NORTH COUNTRY R13
GLORY ROAD G	V FOR VENDETTA R13	ULTRAVIOLET PG13

MATINEE P111.00 – FREE SEATING – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MON. TO FRI.

MUTANT ACTION BEGINS TODAY
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Parents cautioned against bringing kids age 9 & below. Some intense scenes may stress their sensibilities



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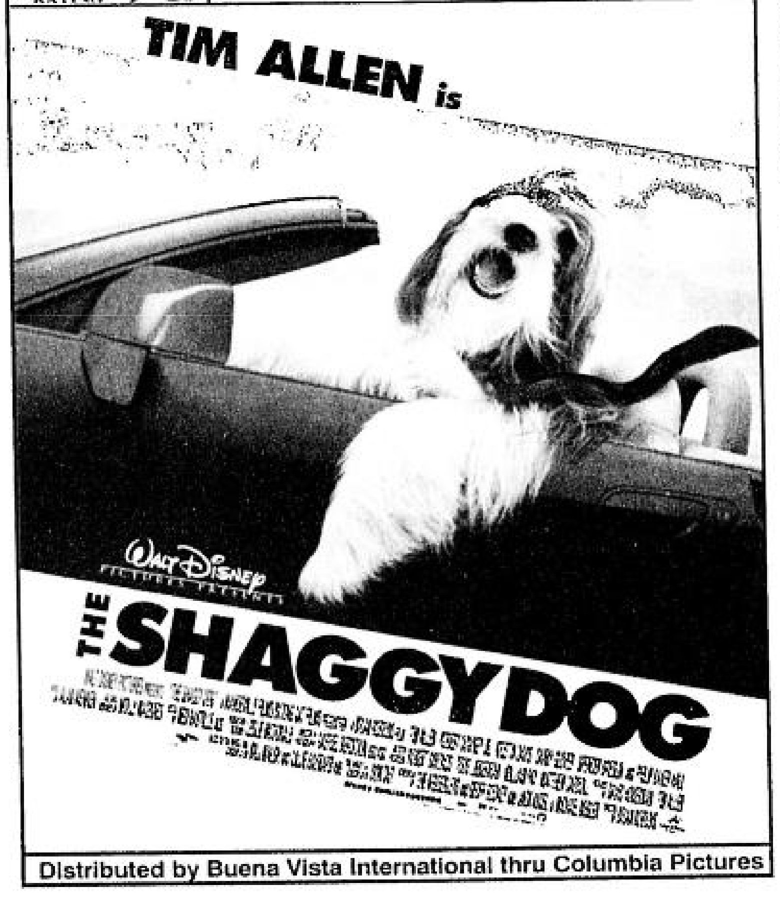
2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



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RAY ROMANO MANNY
JOHN LEGUIZAMO SID
DENIS LEARY DIEGO
QUEEN LATIFAH ELLIE
Blue Sky

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Senior artists show the way

v of Sampaguita star builder, Doc l mother to their s one and all.

already 88 years ins an inspiration people, including

Mama Nene in- more when she rare privilege of year diary which ars (1940-1945) urried, and when richu was born.

randmother her- can imagine how to read Mama f the day her el- rn!

e discovered that s a good writer. s years, her diary f life and feeling. t it read like a Fil- The Wind," and ng favor with her. e the senior likes o, Eddie Garcia, l Quinn and Ma- erez still making utions to our TV-

experience, wis- ment to give our big and small screens the substance and depth they so sorely need.

'16 blocks'

BRUCE Willis is proud of his latest film, "16 Blocks." It's a hit in the States, has gotten some good notices, and has reestablished him as an action-drama draw.

"16 Blocks" casts Willis as a defeated detective who finds redemption and the power to change in the most unlikely of men, a petty criminal (Mos Def) he's assigned to escort 16 blocks to the courthouse to testify before a grand jury.

During the course of the movie, Willis' character struggles to save the petty hood's life several times. In truth, however, it's Mos Def's character who saves the cop's life, giving him back his physical and emotional wellbeing. **Richard Donner** directs.

'Underclassman'

"UNDERCLASSMAN," starring rising actor-rapper-comic **Nick Cannon**, is an action-packed comedy about upholding the law and disturbing the peace. Cannon plays a maverick cop who goes undercover at an elite high school to solve a crime.

Cultures clash as his no-holds-barred style meets the ultimate in high-school society. But the undercover cop eventually uncovers a dangerous ring of criminals, and unmasks a killer.

"Underclassman" also stars **Rosalyn Sanchez, Shaun Ushmore, Kelly Hu** and **Cheech Marin**.

TODAY

ry Road

ars Josh Lucas, Derek Luke, Evan Jones
irected by James Gartner

story was made when the Texas Western basketball , with its pioneering all-African-American starting lineup, the 1966 NCAA tournament title. This inspiring true sto- cuses on Don Haskins (Lucas), the passionate and dedi- l coach who guided the groundbreaking team to victory. Schneider of Orlando Weekly found the film a pleasant ise: "At the end of the day, it's still a Disney movie, but the ments are genuine and the performances reek of pathos." r Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times hails it as "an effective s movie." Bob Strauss of the Los Angeles Daily News con- "[Its] greatest strength, though, is that it's just a great sto- ted well... a movie worth cheering. Without feeling d about it."

traviolet

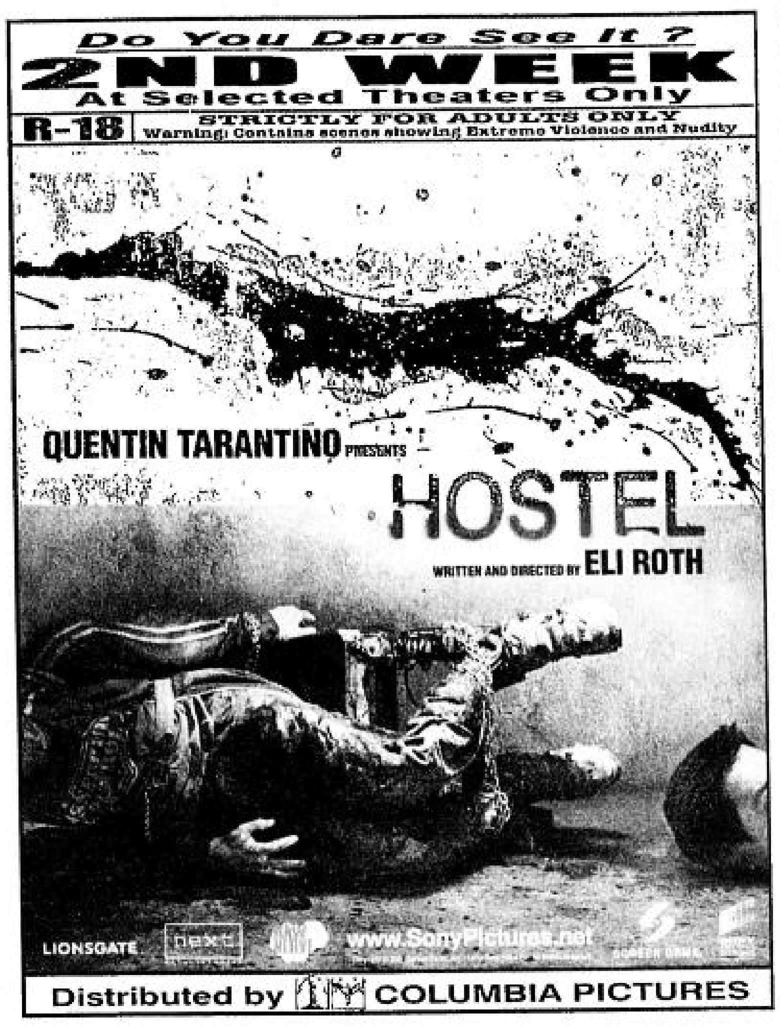
ars Milla Jovovich, Cameron Bright, William Fichtner
rected by Kurt Wimmer

the 21st century, a revolution is brewing, as ostracized pire-virus mutated Hemophages strike back, led by ne fatale Violet (Jovovich). Hemophages were the mili- science experiment gone awry and they are furious. than Perry of the n Globe scoffs: vich is bad, and not in a way. She turns in an lly expressionless per- ance." Daniel Fienberg Chicago Tribune says the movie is finally just t Wimmer's love for vich. Every shot either s on her taut belly and s up to her face or on her face and circles to her rear... a kaleido- c crap." Scott Brown of rtainment Weekly sug- : "Crank your brain to its lowest possible idle and you'll verthink [this movie]."

KY

DID YOU KNOW...

struck 3rd nate Sur- r, is the st mem- f GMA 7's antadia, Pag-ibig Hanggang s." Starting this week, he appear on the show as the n-up Arman, the half-Ethe- half-Sapirian prince, son of ro's King Ybrahim (Ding- Dantes).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R-18
STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY
Warning: Contains scenes showing Extreme Violence and Nudity
QUENTIN TARANTINO PRESENTS
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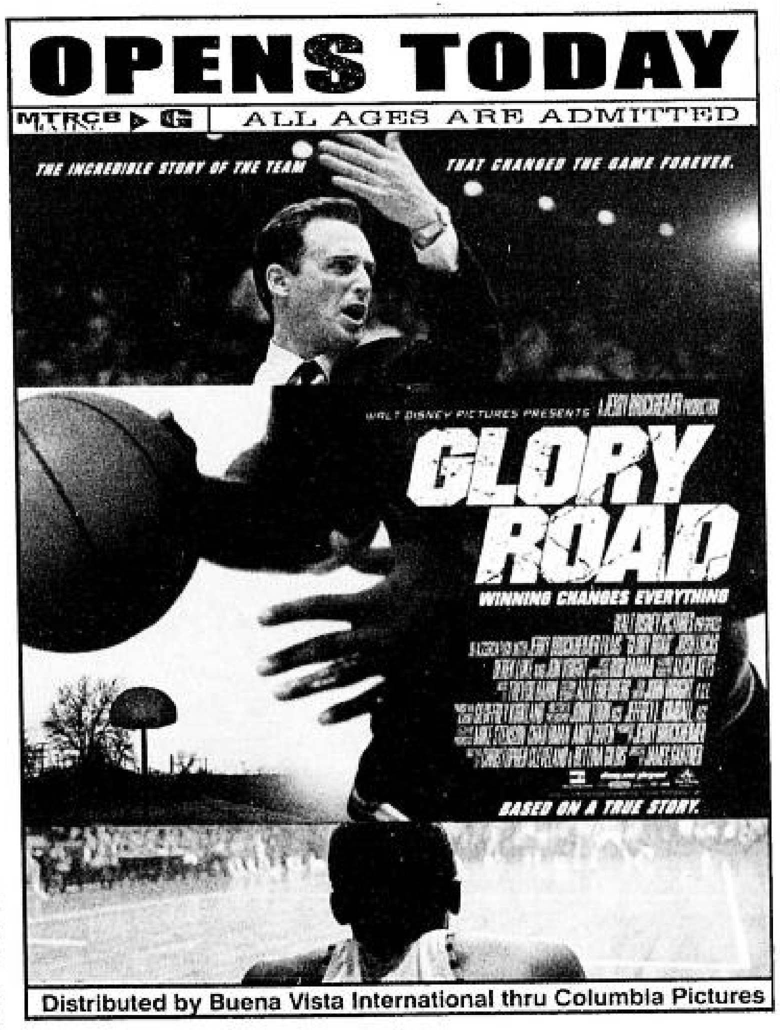
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GLORY ROAD
WINNING CHANGES EVERYTHING
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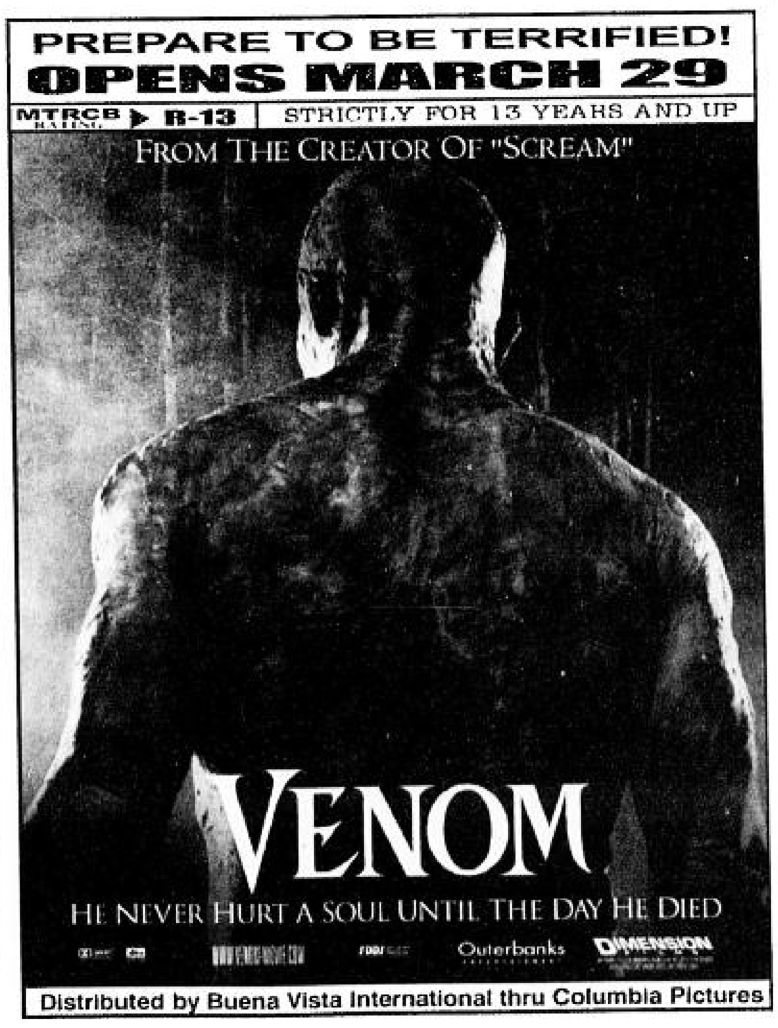
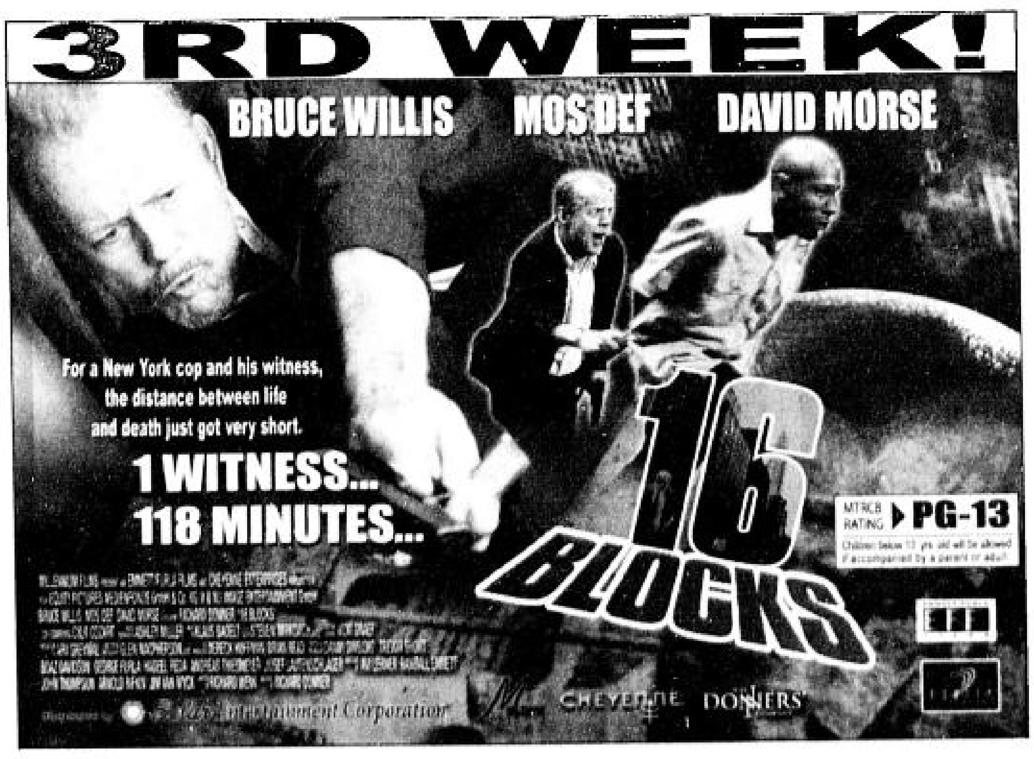

PREPARE TO BE TERRIFIED!
OPENS MARCH 29
MTRCB RATING R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
FROM THE CREATOR OF "SCREAM"
VENOM
HE NEVER HURT A SOUL UNTIL THE DAY HE DIED
Outerbanks
DIMENSION
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


3RD WEEK!
BRUCE WILLIS
MOS DEF
DAVID MORSE
For a New York cop and his witness, the distance between life and death just got very short.
1 WITNESS...
118 MINUTES...
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 V FOR VENDETTA • THX
2 GLORY ROAD
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 ULTRAVIOLET
5 NANNY MCPHEE
6 GRANDMA'S BOY
7 CO-ED SCANDAL
8 SHE'S THE MAN
9 SHAGGY DOG
10 HOSTEL

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 NORTH COUNTRY
2 SHE'S THE MAN
V FOR VENDETTA
3 GLORY ROAD
4 CO-ED SCANDAL
5 NANNY MCPHEE
6 ULTRAVIOLET
7 GRANDMA'S BOY

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SHE'S THE MAN
2 GLORY ROAD
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 NANNY MCPHEE
5 CO-ED SCANDAL
6 GRANDMA'S BOY
7 HOSTEL
8 V FOR VENDETTA

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 NORTH COUNTRY
2 NANNY MCPHEE
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 HOSTEL
5 GLORY ROAD
6 ULTRAVIOLET

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

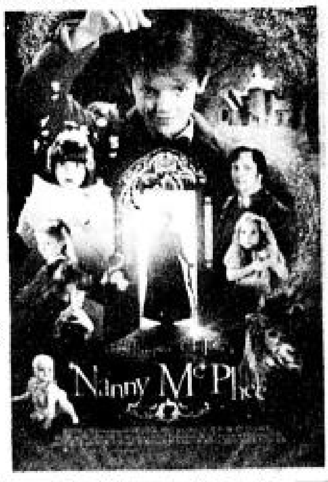
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 NANNY MCPHEE
2 GLORY ROAD
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 GRANDMA'S BOY

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

"FREE"
Nanny McPhee
Activity Sticker Set
for every purchase of
2 movie tickets
on March 22 (Wednesday)
or when supplies last
at Robinsons Movieworld
Novaliches, Sta. Rosa and Dasmariñas


Nanny McPhee

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 TIGER BLADE
2 16 BLOCKS
3 THE DARK
4 CASANOVA
5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 CASANOVA
3 SYRIANA
4 DATE MOVIE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 THE DARK
4 TIGER BLADE
5 DATE MOVIE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 CASANOVA
3 16 BLOCKS
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 GLORY ROAD
4 THE DARK
5 V FOR VENDETTA
6 HOSTEL

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 THE DARK
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 MURDER
5 SYRIANA
6 TIGER BLADE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 DATE MOVIE
3 16 BLOCKS
4 THE DARK
5 GOAL
6 CASANOVA

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 SYRIANA
4 THE DARK
5 DATE MOVIE
6 V FOR VENDETTA

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'Heremias' wins in Fribourg festival

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FILIPINO DIRECTOR LAV Diaz's eight-hour digital film "Heremias" won the Special Jury Prize at the 20th Fribourg International Film Festival held in Switzerland from March 12-19.

According to the festival's website, the honor, which comes with a cash prize of 5,000 Swiss francs (US$3,879), is given to the director "for inventiveness in scriptwriting and directing, for renewing the cinematographic language and for thematic or formal audacity."

The international jury consisted of Thessaloniki film fest chief Michel Demopolous of Greece as president and, as members: screenwriter Jose F. Lacaba of the Philippines; film distributor Jochen D. Girsch of Belgium; actress Meret Matter of Switzerland; and producer Paloma Rocha of Brazil.

A MOMENT from the eight hour-long "Heremias."

The jury commended Diaz for his "search of a radical and unconventional cinematic language, with the purpose of safeguarding an original national culture."

The Grand Prize or *Le Regard D'Or* was awarded to Maziar Miri's "Be Ahestegi... (Gradually)" of Iran.

Other films cited by the jurors were Cheng Wen-tang's "Shen Hai (Blue Cha Cha)" of Taiwan; Gahité Fofana's "Un Matin Bonne Heure (Early in the Morning)," Guinea/France; Eric Khoo's "Be With Me," Singapore; Jocelyne Saab's "Dunia (Kiss Me Not on the Eyes)," Egypt/Lebanon/France.

The Fribourg fest was established in 1980 as the "Third World Film Festival and aimed to promote dialogue between different cultures."

'Don't ...

From page A2-1

way. They expect something, for instance, a homecoming welcome. It's not as if I'm on the show every weekend. I wish they'd do their homework *naman*. You watch: if I hit it big in the US, they'll be promoting me on 'ASAP.'

> 'Do you know how many offers I've gotten from the other side? A lot'

What are your plans for the year?

On April 15, I'll do another fundraiser in Los Angeles with MiG Ayesa and other Filipino artists who are in the US now—for the Leyte landslide victims. In May, I'm touring Europe with Pops... then Las Vegas in July.

How did you get involved in the fundraiser for Gaia?

My sister Tere's son, who goes to the International School, came home one day feeling depressed. He said his teacher, Gaia's father, had a problem. A lot of people ended up wanting to help, and it snowballed into a show. The baby could go under the knife on the very day of the performance.

Will you henceforth be concerned about helping people?

You've got to start somewhere. I lost my father to a similar disease. Hopefully my name still has some pull.

Once, in Japan, I asked a group, 'If I kissed you on the lips, how much would you give me?' I raised $5,000 for typhoon victims, which I donated it to the ABS-CBN Foundation. By the end of that tour, I had donated almost $20,000. But did ABS-CBN know I did that? It's not important. I just want you to see that I am a team player.

Is there anything else you dream of as a performer?

I want to be really big and come back to this country, my hometown, and do a big show with an orchestra for free. It would be fully produced but I will not charge a cent. That's when you know you're a big star.

SHANG CINEPLEX
① NANNY MCPHEE MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 LMF
② ULTRAVIOLET MTRCB PG-13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 LMF
③ NORTH COUNTRY MTRCB R-13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 LMF
④ GLORY ROAD MTRCB GP 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
1 NORTH COUNTRY 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:05 R-13
2 ULTRA VIOLET 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 11:00 PG-13
3 NANNY McPHEE 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 G
4 GLORY ROAD 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 G

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CINEMA 2 V FOR VENDETTA R13
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 NORTH COUNTRY R13
CINEMA 4 NANNY MC PHEE GP
CINEMA 5 ULTRAVIOLET PG13
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MUSIC MUSEUM
MARCH 30, 2006 RICO J. PUNO 9:00PM
MARCH 31, 2006 RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO 8:00PM
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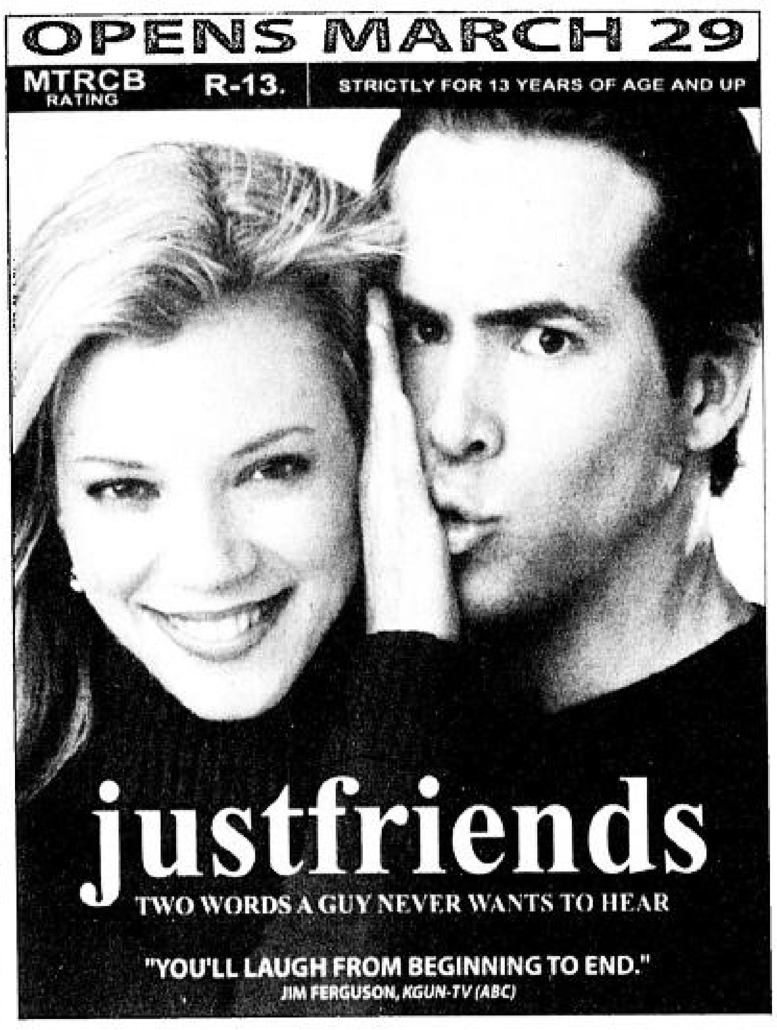
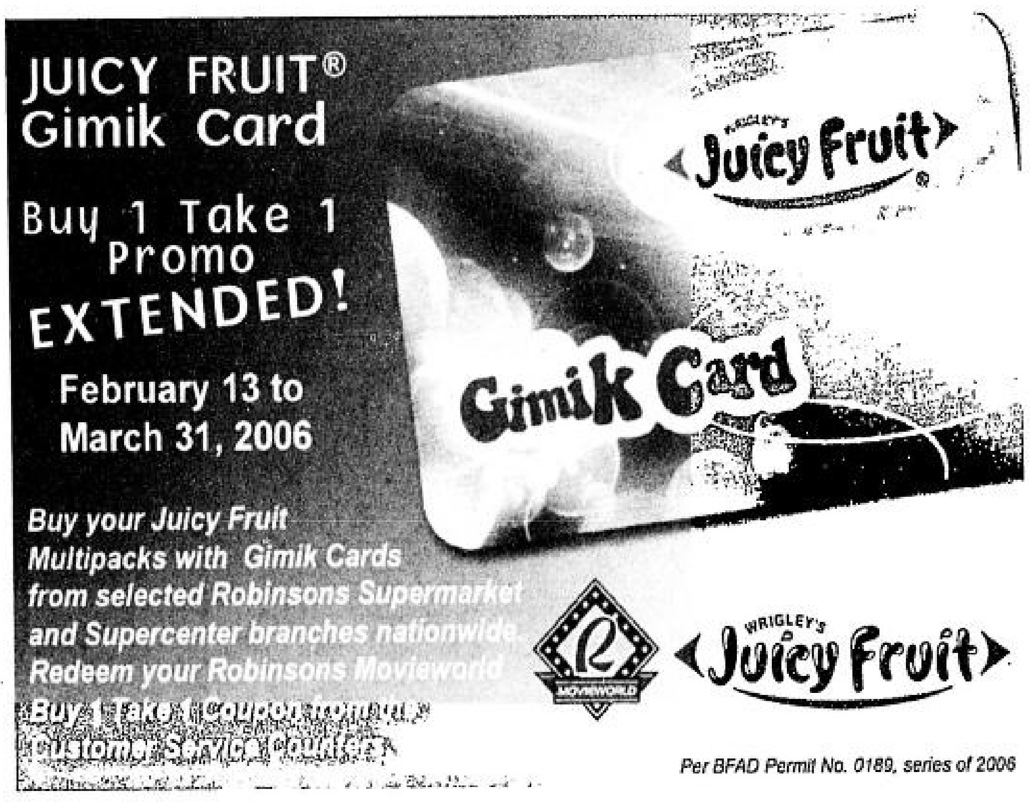
EVERY MONDAY MARCH 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT WERE STILL HOT THE MUSICAL FOR INQUIRIES CALL 722-4532 LOC. 116 7:00PM 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635


OPENS MARCH 29
MTRCB RATING R-13. STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
justfriends
TWO WORDS A GUY NEVER WANTS TO HEAR
"YOU'LL LAUGH FROM BEGINNING TO END."
JIM FERGUSON, KGUN-TV (ABC)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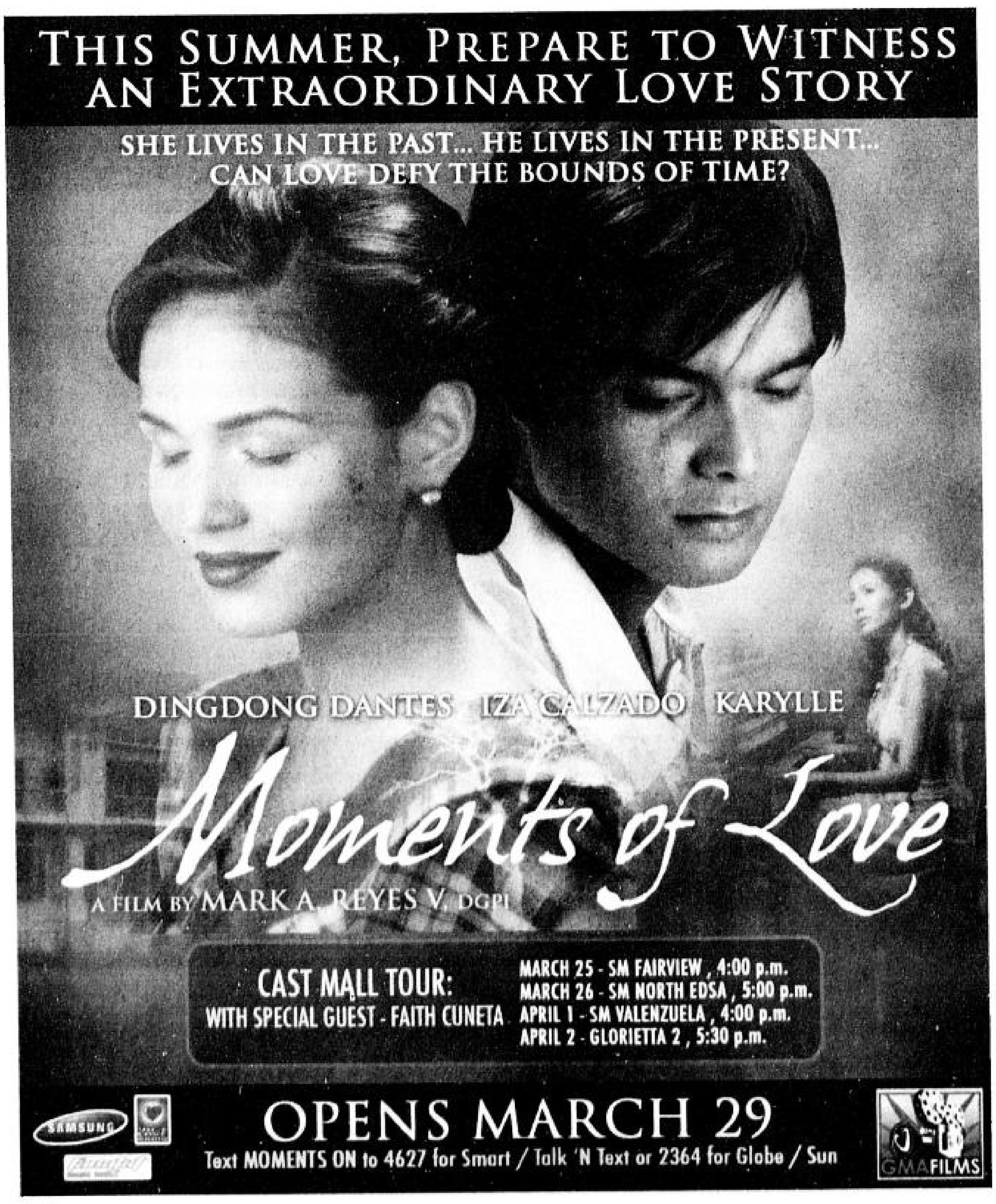
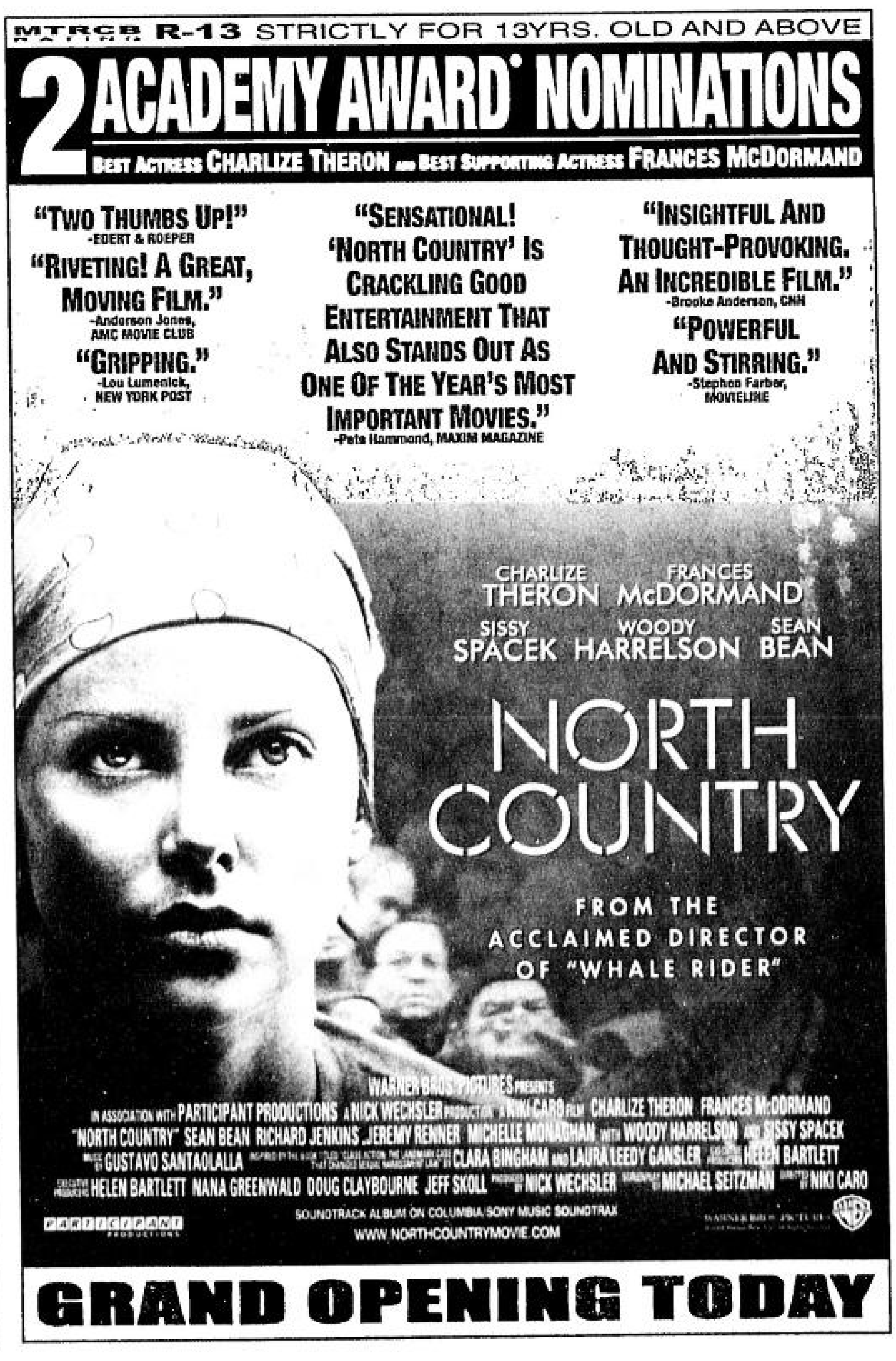

THIS SUMMER, PREPARE TO WITNESS AN EXTRAORDINARY LOVE STORY
SHE LIVES IN THE PAST... HE LIVES IN THE PRESENT... CAN LOVE DEFY THE BOUNDS OF TIME?
DINGDONG DANTES IZA CALZADO KARYLLE
Moments of Love
A FILM BY MARK A. REYES V. DGPI
CAST MALL TOUR: WITH SPECIAL GUEST - FAITH CUNETA
MARCH 25 - SM FAIRVIEW, 4:00 p.m.
MARCH 26 - SM NORTH EDSA, 5:00 p.m.
APRIL 1 - SM VALENZUELA, 4:00 p.m.
APRIL 2 - GLORIETTA 2, 5:30 p.m.
OPENS MARCH 29
Text MOMENTS ON to 4627 for Smart / Talk 'N Text or 2364 for Globe / Sun
SAMSUNG
GMA FILMS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2 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTRESS CHARLIZE THERON AND BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS FRANCES McDORMAND
"TWO THUMBS UP!" -EBERT & ROEPER
"RIVETING! A GREAT, MOVING FILM." -Anderson Jones, AMC MOVIE CLUB
"GRIPPING." -Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST
"SENSATIONAL! 'NORTH COUNTRY' IS CRACKLING GOOD ENTERTAINMENT THAT ALSO STANDS OUT AS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST IMPORTANT MOVIES." -Pete Hammond, MAXIM MAGAZINE
"INSIGHTFUL AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING. AN INCREDIBLE FILM." -Brooke Anderson, CNN
"POWERFUL AND STIRRING." -Stephen Farber, MOVIELINE
CHARLIZE THERON FRANCES McDORMAND
SISSY SPACEK WOODY HARRELSON SEAN BEAN
NORTH COUNTRY
FROM THE ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR OF "WHALE RIDER"
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH PARTICIPANT PRODUCTIONS A NICK WECHSLER PRODUCTION A NIKI CARO FILM CHARLIZE THERON FRANCES McDORMAND "NORTH COUNTRY" SEAN BEAN RICHARD JENKINS JEREMY RENNER MICHELLE MONAGHAN WITH WOODY HARRELSON AND SISSY SPACEK MUSIC BY GUSTAVO SANTAOLALLA CLARA BINGHAM AND LAURA LEEDY GANSLER HELEN BARTLETT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HELEN BARTLETT NANA GREENWALD DOUG CLAYBOURNE JEFF SKOLL PRODUCED BY NICK WECHSLER SCREENPLAY BY MICHAEL SEITZMAN DIRECTED BY NIKI CARO
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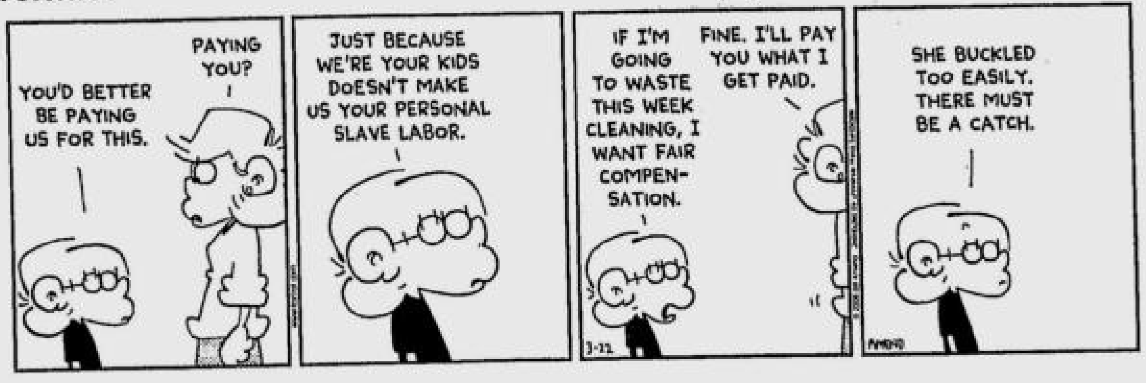
GRAND OPENING TODAY

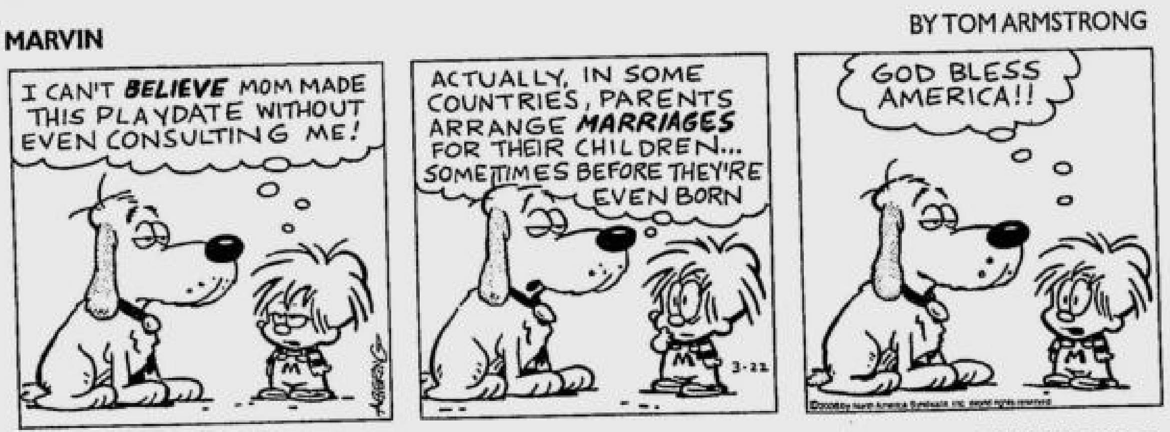
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PAYING YOU?
YOU'D BETTER BE PAYING US FOR THIS.
JUST BECAUSE WE'RE YOUR KIDS DOESN'T MAKE US YOUR PERSONAL SLAVE LABOR.
IF I'M GOING TO WASTE THIS WEEK CLEANING, I WANT FAIR COMPENSATION.
FINE. I'LL PAY YOU WHAT I GET PAID.
SHE BUCKLED TOO EASILY. THERE MUST BE A CATCH.
3-22
AMEND

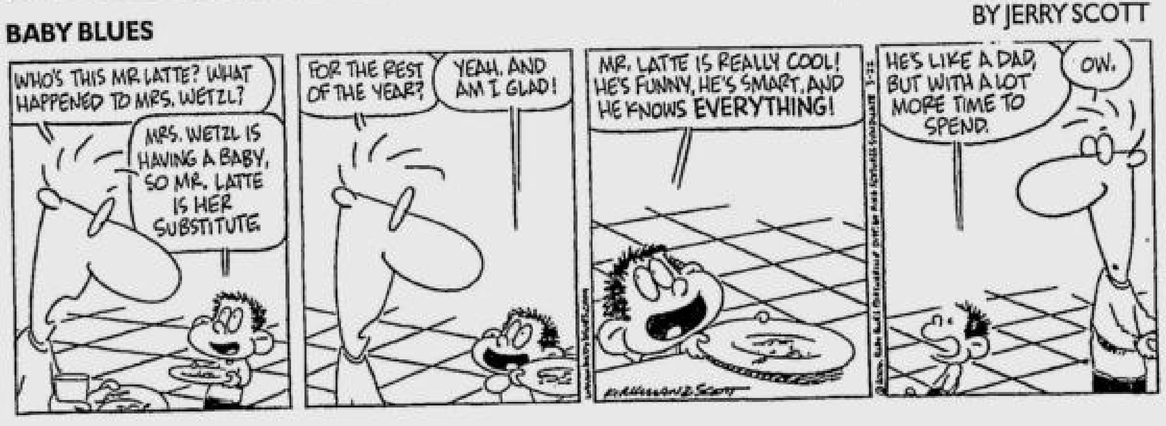
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I CAN'T BELIEVE MOM MADE THIS PLAYDATE WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING ME!
ACTUALLY, IN SOME COUNTRIES, PARENTS ARRANGE MARRIAGES FOR THEIR CHILDREN... SOMETIMES BEFORE THEY'RE EVEN BORN
GOD BLESS AMERICA!!
3-22

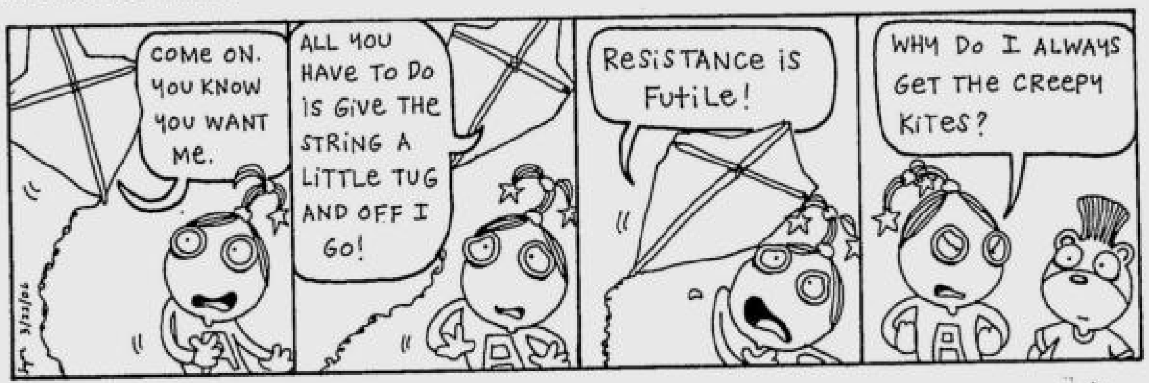
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHO'S THIS MR LATTE? WHAT HAPPENED TO MRS. WETZL?
MRS. WETZL IS HAVING A BABY, SO MR. LATTE IS HER SUBSTITUTE.
FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR?
YEAH. AND AM I GLAD!
MR. LATTE IS REALLY COOL! HE'S FUNNY, HE'S SMART, AND HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!
HE'S LIKE A DAD, BUT WITH A LOT MORE TIME TO SPEND.
OW.
KIRKMAN&SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


COME ON. YOU KNOW YOU WANT ME.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE THE STRING A LITTLE TUG AND OFF I GO!
RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!
WHY DO I ALWAYS GET THE CREEPY KITES?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a solid, direct earthy energy. People like this. It makes them trust and respect you. In large measure, this is because you believe in yourself, and it shows. You will attempt heroism given the opportunity. (And often succeed!) In the year ahead you must put out energy to build and construct something important. Your pay will arrive soon!

Birthdate of: Louis L'Amour, writer; William Shatner, actor; Reese Witherspoon, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): With the Sun in your sign for the next four weeks, it's all about you! Don't hesitate to put your own needs first now. It's your turn to re-energize, rejuvenate and replenish your strength for the year.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're working hard, spending and making money. Cash is flowing! Your best option for the next few weeks is to work behind the scenes. Lie low.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): With Mars in your sign now, you've got energy to burn! Try to get more physical exercise. Any kind of group activity will please you in the next few weeks.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Delays in publishing and the media are inevitable now. Just be patient. You might also hear from someone far away. People from your past will come into your life again.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Travel plans are very appealing now. Go forward with any opportunity to expand your education or see more of the world. You want to broaden your horizons!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Ex-spouses and old flames are definitely back in the picture now. Look as good as you can, because living well is the best revenge. Now is the time to settle loose details about shared property.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be patient with silly mistakes and goofy errors at work. Mixed-up communications and lost paperwork are par for the course now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Old flames and romantic interests from your past might make your heart go pitter-patter. Even though things didn't work out, what was good is always still there.

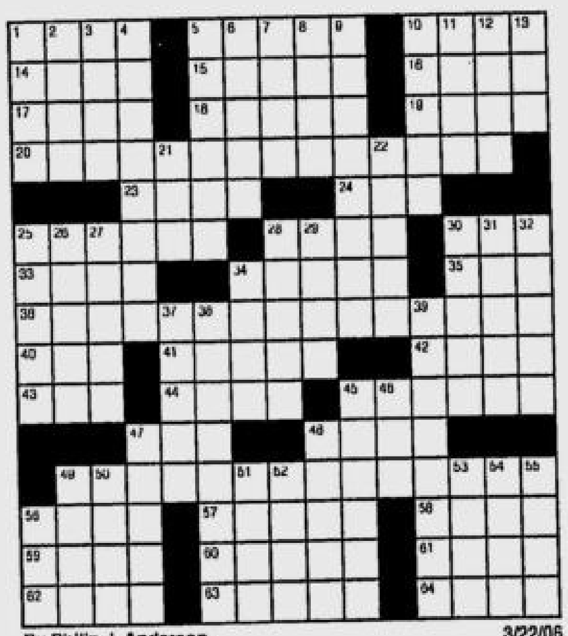
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Family members and relatives might be camped on your doorstep now. Stock the fridge. It's time to trade lies about the bad old days. Attend to home repairs today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The Moon is in your sign today. This gives you a slight edge over others. Nevertheless, retrograde Mercury still triggers mixed-up communications and minor errors to daily activities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might encounter resistance when dealing with the government or behind-the-scenes business today. Try again tomorrow morning for better chances with success.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to join efforts with others and work in group situations. Partnerships can be helpful. Be open to cooperation.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
3/22/06

ACROSS
1 Hustler from Minnesota
5 Victorious Super Bowl IV coach
10 Soprano Gluck
14 Give off
15 Crownlet
16 Requirement
17 "Two Years Before the Mast" author
18 Leek's relative
19 Sawbucks
20 Crow
23 Sock parts
24 Gumshoe
25 Engraver's instrument
28 Bambi and kin
30 Carpentry tool
33 "Dies __"
34 On the wagon
35 Rocky peak
36 Hunt
40 Moving vehicle
41 Negatively charged ion
42 Part of B.A.
43 The Greatest
44 Tears
45 Admonition
47 May celebrant
48 Woody Guthrie's boy
49 Apple
56 Assists
57 Speckled fish
58 "__ la Douce"
59 Run off
60 School for Pierre
61 Aunts in Acapulco
62 Hardy girl
63 Warning words
64 Salinger lass

DOWN
1 G-men
2 Asian nursemaid
3 Prong
4 Momentarily stunned
5 Mass vestments
6 Louise and Turner
7 Death Valley rarity
8 Third baseman Rodriguez
9 Sea cows
10 Caper
11 Provocative look
12 Patch up
13 Pop-ups, e.g.
21 __ are here (map info)
22 Quotable catcher
25 Trees of a region
26 Error's partner
27 One-named New Age musician
28 Extinct birds
29 Israeli statesman
30 Gawk
31 Major artery
32 Carpus, commonly
34 Salon sound
37 Slugger Hank
38 Lively
39 Likely winner, perhaps
45 Packing cases
46 TV alien from Melmac
47 Exodus leader
48 Mature
49 Office folder
50 March 15th
51 Shell competitor
52 High time?
53 "Trinity" author
54 Muslim leader
55 Stun, with a gun
56 Back of the Space Shuttle

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	A	D	■	A	H	A	B	■	E	D	N	A	S
A	L	T	O	■	W	I	R	E	■	C	R	E	P	E
P	E	O	R	I	A	R	I	A	■	L	O	W	E	R
U	N	L	I	N	K	E	D	■	C	A	N	A	D	A
P	A	L	A	C	E	■	■	C	A	T	E	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	U	N	C	L	O	G	S	■	K	E	Y
S	O	B	E	R	■	H	A	R	E	■	L	A	C	E
A	H	O	Y	■	L	O	B	O	S	■	E	R	R	S
W	I	S	E	■	A	R	O	N	■	H	O	K	U	M
S	O	T	■	H	Y	D	R	A	T	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	O	R	E	O	S	■	■	I	N	T	A	C	T
M	I	N	O	A	N	■	P	I	N	N	A	C	L	E
A	S	T	O	R	■	D	U	R	H	A	M	H	A	M
G	L	O	M	S	■	A	L	M	A	■	P	O	M	P
S	E	N	S	E	■	B	E	A	T	■	S	O	S	O

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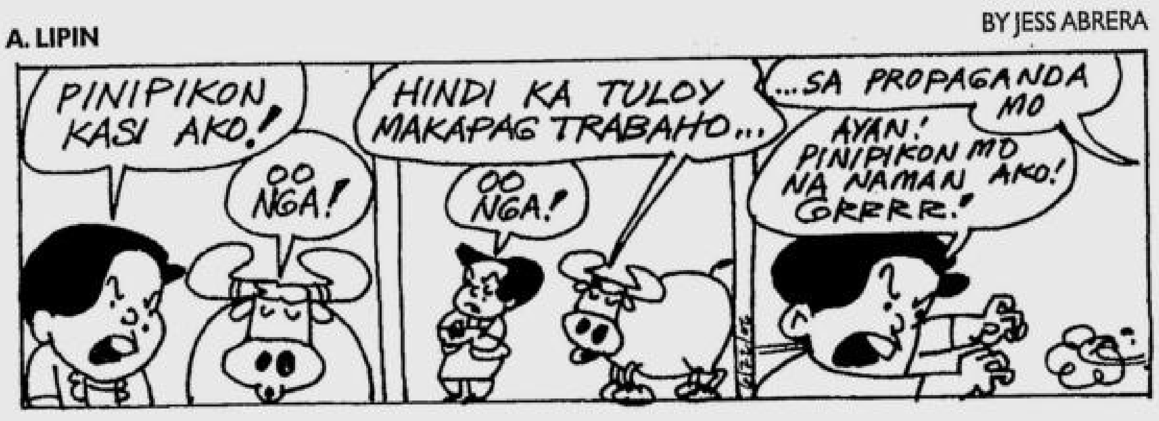
3/22/06

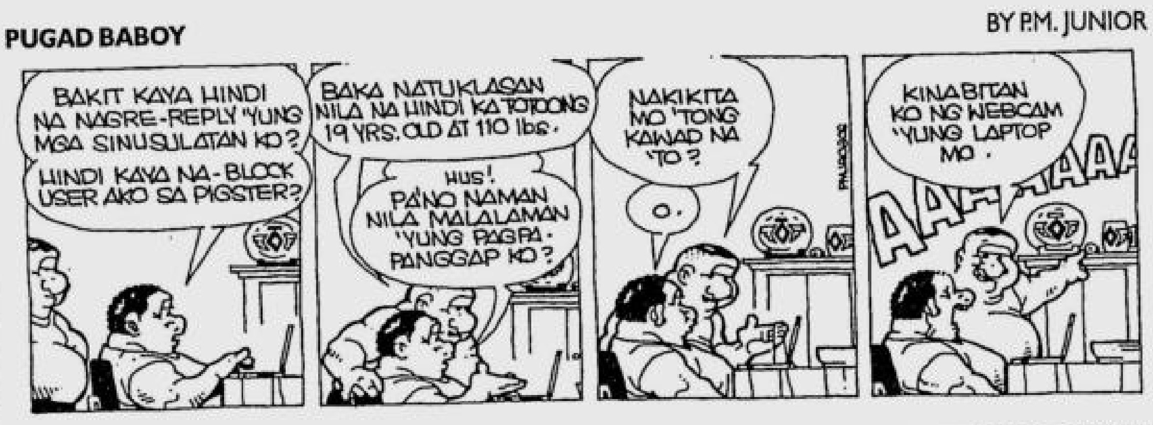
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PINIPIKON KASI AKO!
OO NGA!
HINDI KA TULOY MAKAPAG TRABAHO...
OO NGA!
...SA PROPAGANDA MO
AYAN! PINIPIKON MO NA NAMAN AKO! GRRRR!

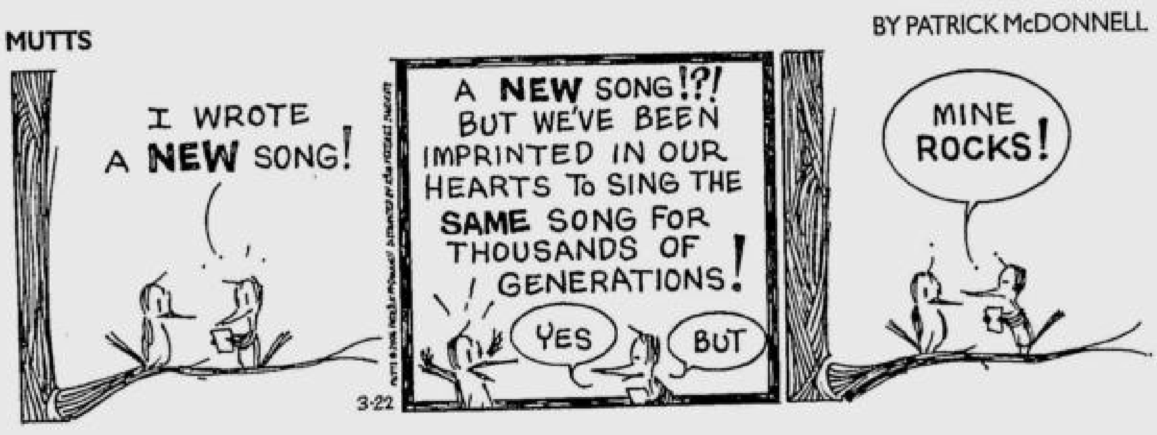
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT KAYA HINDI NA NAGRE-REPLY 'YUNG MGA SINUSULATAN KO?
HINDI KAYA NA-BLOCK USER AKO SA PIGSTER?
BAKA NATUKLASAN NILA NA HINDI KA TOTOONG 19 YRS. OLD AT 110 lbs.
HUS! PA'NO NAMAN NILA MALALAMAN 'YUNG PAGPA-PANGGAP KO?
NAKIKITA MO 'TONG KAWAD NA 'TO?
O.
KINABITAN KO NG WEBCAM 'YUNG LAPTOP MO.
AAAAAAA

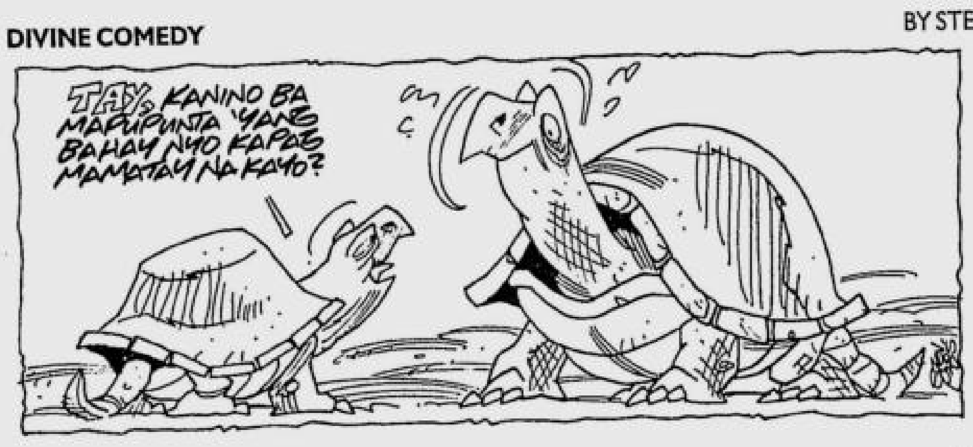
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I WROTE A NEW SONG!
A NEW SONG!?! BUT WE'VE BEEN IMPRINTED IN OUR HEARTS TO SING THE SAME SONG FOR THOUSANDS OF GENERATIONS!
YES
BUT
MINE ROCKS!
3-22

DIVINE COMEDY

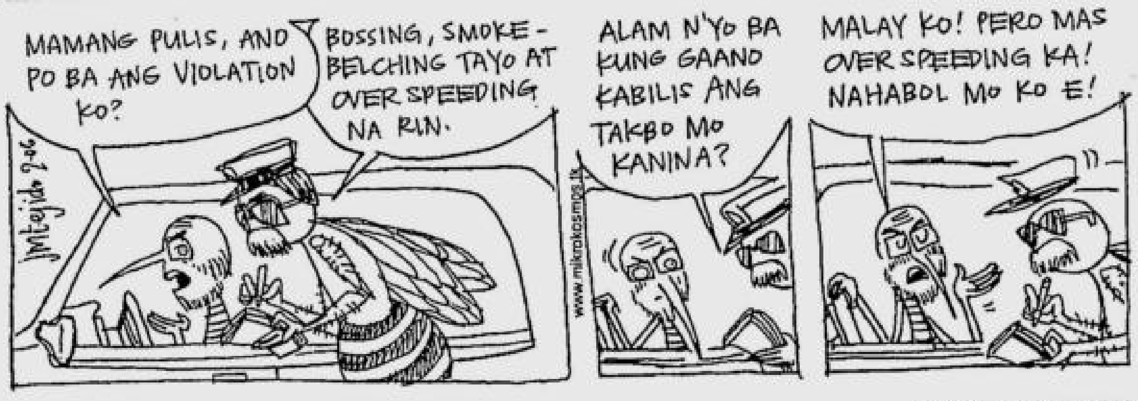
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TAY, KANINO BA MAPUPUNTA 'YANG BAHAY NYO KAPAG MAMATAY NA KAYO?

ALAM MONG TUMATANDA KA NA KUNG .... MINAMADALI NA NG MGA ANAK MO NA GAWIN MO NA ANG LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT MO

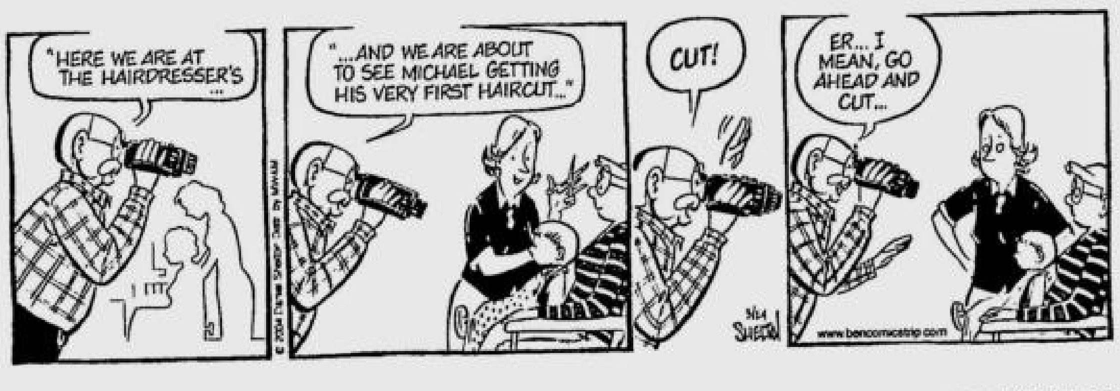
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAMANG PULIS, ANO PO BA ANG VIOLATION KO?
BOSSING, SMOKE-BELCHING TAYO AT OVER SPEEDING NA RIN.
ALAM N'YO BA KUNG GAANO KABILIS ANG TAKBO MO KANINA?
MALAY KO! PERO MAS OVER SPEEDING KA! NAHABOL MO KO E!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON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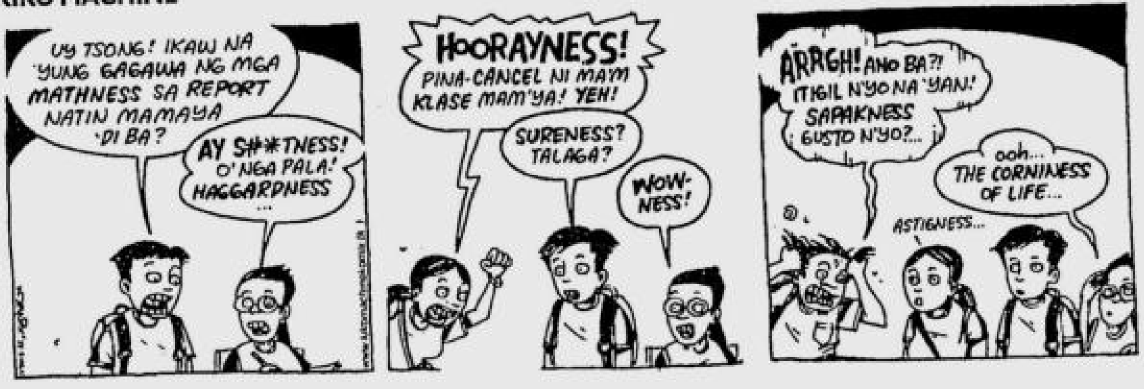
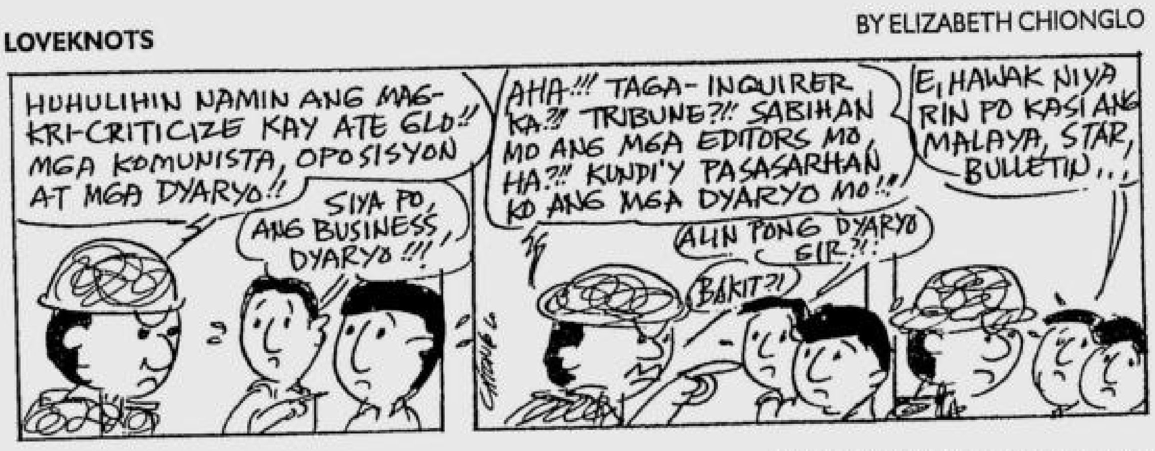
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY TSONG! IKAW NA 'YUNG GAGAWA NG MGA MATHNESS SA REPORT NATIN MAMAYA 'DI BA?
AY SH**TNESS! O' NGA PALA! HAGGARDNESS ...
HOORAYNESS! PINA-CANCEL NI MAM KLASE MAM'YA! YEH!
SURENESS? TALAGA?
WOW-NESS!
ARRGH! ANO BA?! ITIGIL N'YO NA 'YAN! SAPAKNESS GUSTO N'YO?...
ASTIGNESS...
ooh... THE CORNINESS OF LIFE...

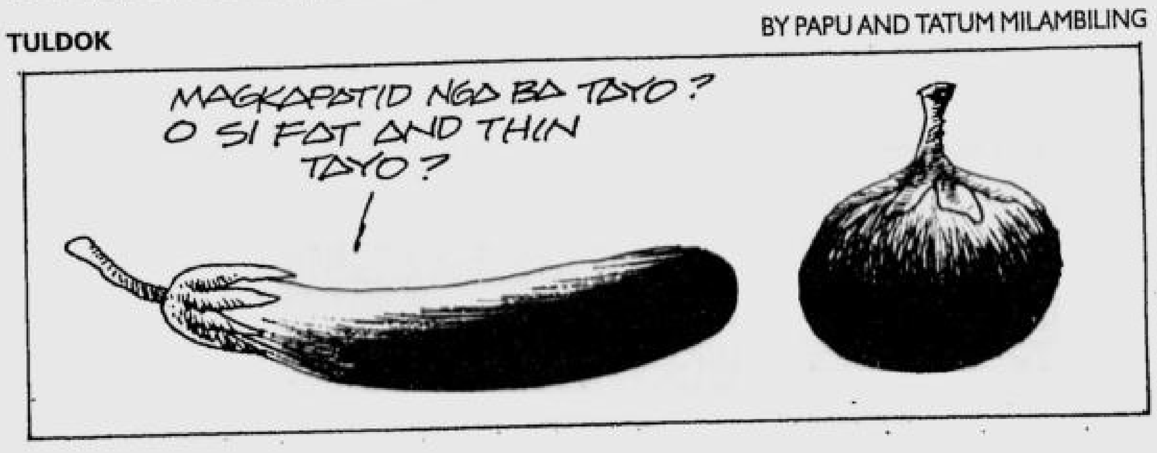
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HUHULIHIN NAMIN ANG MAG-KRI-CRITICIZE KAY ATE GLO!! MGA KOMUNISTA, OPOSISYON AT MGA DYARYO!!
SIYA PO, ANG BUSINESS DYARYO!!!
AHA!!! TAGA-INQUIRER KA?!! TRIBUNE?!! SABIHAN MO ANG MGA EDITORS MO HA?!! KUNDI'Y PASASARHAN KO ANG MGA DYARYO MO!!
ALIN PONG DYARYO SIR?!
BAKIT?!
E, HAWAK NIYA RIN PO KASI ANG MALAYA, STAR, BULLETIN...

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAGKAPATID NGA BA TAYO? O SI FAT AND THIN TAYO?

ROUNDUP

'Jewel' at Market!

OF COURSE, Lady Han will cook for Filipino fans. But only on television, and only tomorrow, when she guests on GMA 7's "Unang Hirit" as part of her Philippine TV guesting schedule this week.

The star of the popular Korean telenovela, "Jewel in the Palace," Han is arriving today with her 12-year-old "Jewel" co-star Janggeum. Their three-day visit is part of the commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of Asean-Korea Dialogue Partnership, organized by the Korean Embassy.

Aside from "Unang Hirit," they will appear on "Star Talk," "S-Files," "Sis" and "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho."

During their brief stay, they will also visit an orphanage. The best part is a meet-and-greet on at the Play Zone of Market! Market! in Bonifacio Global City tomorrow with the Pinoy followers of the popular series, where Han plays one of the royal cooks. This will be preceded by a mini-concert featuring Faith Cuneta 6:30 p.m.

The commemoration activities includes a food festival to be participated in by 30 out of 100 Korean restaurants in Metro Manila. The public is invited to all events.

'V' for box office victory

LOS ANGELES—Audiences were in a rebellious mood, lifting the action tale "V for Vendetta" to the top spot at the weekend box office with a $26.1-million debut.

The Warner Bros. film, which stars Natalie Portman and Hugo Weaving in a story of revolution against a totalitarian British government, bumped off the previous weekend's box-office leaders, "Failure to Launch" and "The Shaggy Dog."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official trackers.

1) "V for Vendetta," $26.1M; 2) "Failure to Launch," $15.8M; 3) "The Shaggy Dog," $13.6M; 4) "She's the Man," $11M; 5) "The Hills Have Eyes," $8.1M; 6) "16 Blocks," $4.7M; 7) "Eight Below," $4.2M; 8) "Tyler Perry's Madea's Family Reunion," $3M; 9) "The Pink Panther," $2.5M; 10) "Aquamarine," $2M. *AP*

Possible wedding

CERNOBBIO, Italy—The main thing missing from the much-rumored wedding between Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie were the bride and groom.

Still, officials held out hope that the couple would give a Hollywood ending to the weekend and show up to tie the knot in this Lake Como retreat.

Cernobbio Mayor Simona Saladini said she had been told Saturday to remain on standby for possible official functions into the evening, that police in the Lake Como area had been placed on alert and that a private security firm had increased security around George Clooney's nearby villa.

Jolie, who starred alongside Pitt in "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," is expecting a child this summer. *AP*

Touchy Tom

LOS ANGELES—Actor Tom Cruise threatened to boycott promotion of his upcoming Paramount Pictures film unless a sister cable TV network pulled a "South Park" rerun lampooning the Church of Scientology, industry sources said on Friday.

Representatives for Paramount and Cruise, a prominent Scientologist, denied he made any such threats or had anything to do with the Comedy Central network canceling plans to air a repeat of the "South Park" episode titled "Trapped in the Closet," on Wednesday.

Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of the crudely animated cartoon hit, issued a quirky statement, filled with references to Scientology and the science-fiction writings of church founder L. Ron Hubbard, suggesting Scientology was behind the scheduling change. *Reuters*

LOREN Legarda sold tops made of local weaves.

DAWN Zuleta, left, brought fruits and sweets from Davao.

JENNIFER Sevilla, right, sold colorful wigs.

Scenes from a 'tiangge'

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rudy Esperas

RUFFA GUTIERREZ, organizer, with two of her gowns that were auctioned off: "It was hard work but well worth it."

BAYARAN MO MUNA 'YAN, 'day," Annabelle Rama called to a woman who seemed to be sneaking out with an orange gown.

It was one of the unexpected scenes at the Market! Market Trade Hall on Saturday's "Celebrity Tiangge for Leyte," organized by Annabelle's daughter-Ruffa Gutierrez, to raise funds for the recent mudslide victims.

The gown, created by Inno Sotto for Ruffa, was sold for P4,000.

Ruffa recounted another fun moment, this one during the auction: "We announced that the bidding would start at P1,000. Someone shouted, 'P500!' We had to explain, '*Pataas po ang* bidding.'"

Gretchen Barretto auctioned off five gowns; Kuh Ledesma donated one. Gary Valenciano gave an Armani jacket. Ruffa's nude evening dress was the top seller: Iza Calzado bought it for P7,500.

Quickly running out of goods, Donita Rose, who shared a booth with Heart Evangelista, proceeded to charge snapshot hunters P10 each for the kitty.

Twins Richard and Raymond Gutierrez found their stuff wiped out by 3:45 p.m. Jennifer Sevilla sold colorful wigs. Dina Bonnevie and daughter Danica Sotto set up a fortune-teller's booth.

In 10 days, Ruffa reported, her group raised P1 million.

"Friends who didn't make it this time around are suggesting a Part 2," Ruffa said. "It's hard work, but it's worth it."

HOT COUPLE: Heart Evangelista and Jericho Rosales

BARGAIN hunters—and crowd draws—Richard and Lucy Gomez

GRETCHEN Barretto holds up one of her five outfits that were auctioned off.

SOLD! For P7,500 (highest auction earner), Ruffa's nude evening dress by Inno Sotto, to Iza Calzado.

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PC BUYER'S GUIDE
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Stocks hit highest level since '99

Shares close 1.04% higher on RP's improving fiscal picture

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

STOCKS YESTERDAY SURGED to its highest level in six-and-a-half years, with share prices closing 1.04 percent higher, on the back of positive economic news, analysts said.

According to traders, foreign investors are seen to be returning to the Philippines after moving to the sidelines over the past few weeks amid continuing efforts to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index finished up 22.40 points or 1.04 percent higher at 2,185.71, after trading between 2,163.31 and 2,186.34.

This is the main index's best finish since Aug. 31, 1999 when it ended at 2,173.82, according to the PSE's research department.

The broader all-shares index gained 13.76 points or 1 percent to 1,336.02.

Analysts said that a "crucial" resistance or psychological level—pegged at 2,160 to 2,170—was breached in yesterday's trade. They said the breach could trigger another round of buying this week.

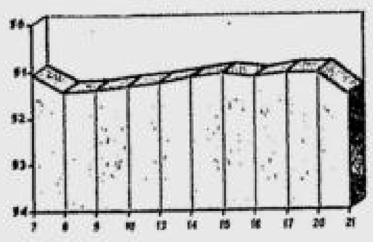
"There was a technical breakout, the next target is 2,200," Joseph Roxas, president at Eagle Equities Inc., said.

"The index will likely encounter resistance

STOCKS/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MARCH

₱51.13 = $1

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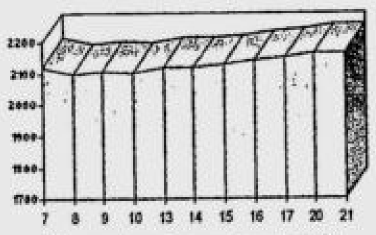
¥116.10 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 20, 2006

GOLD: $555.70-556.20

per ounce Hong Kong, March 20, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Ramon's multiple Angst /B3

Oil firms cut LPG prices /B10

Discover Dell

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo attends the launch of Dell Philippine's Customer Contact Center at the Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City. Looking on are Dell Inc. founder Michael Dell (extreme right), Trade Secretary Peter Favila, (second from left) Michael Garrison of Dell, and Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

RP seen to have 2M call center workers by 2010

By Daxim L. Lucas and Christine O. Avendaño

UP TO TWO MILLION FILIPINOS—more than 2 percent of the country's population—may find themselves working as call center agents by 2010, President Macapagal-Arroyo said on Tuesday.

Her projection represents a 15-fold increase in the number of call center and business process outsourcing (BPO) employees working in the sector. At present, the number of workers stands at about 125,000.

Speaking at the launch of the local Dell contact center in Pasay City, Ms Arroyo said that it is possible to achieve the numbers because of Filipinos' unique communications skills that help convey not only technical information, but "hospitality" as well.

RP SEEN/ B3

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IPR body adopts 'no settlement' policy

Strengthening drive against counterfeiting

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AN INTER-AGENCY BODY TASKED TO PROtect intellectual property rights yesterday said it had adopted a 'no settlement' policy on cases involving IPR violations.

The policy is aimed at strengthening the country's drive against counterfeiting.

The national committee on IPR, which the Intellectual Property Office is heading, said it was implementing the "draconian measure in addressing IP cases" by no longer allowing out-of-court settlement between parties in cases that were being investigated.

IP Philippines Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the measure would give more teeth to enforcement and prosecution efforts and, at the same time, legally disposing of prospective and pending IP cases.

The committee is composed of representatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice and the Bureau of Customs, Office of the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court, National Book Development Board and the Optical Media Board.

Cristobal said these agencies agreed to adopt a uniform system in enforcement, investigation and preparation of IP cases.

He said the DOJ had ordered prosecutors to shun settlements between parties in IP cases at the preliminary investigation stage.

The "no settlement" policy is expected to discourage cases of piracy as well as dispel allegations that the government's prosecution of IP cases are weak and slow.

Also, the DOJ's anti-piracy unit has decided it would no longer entertain affidavits of desistance from parties whose IP rights have been violated.

Instead, the DOJ would push ahead in resolving the cases based on the evidence presented.

"If parties want to settle, they could just do it before the court or during the trial stage."

Earlier, Cristobal was designated to oversee the government's overall anti-piracy campaign as President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the agencies to pursue and ensure convictions of cases in court.

At the same time, the committee reported that at least P10 million worth of counterfeit products were seized last January, bringing the government's total haul to P1.11 billion in pirated items since January 2005.

ROUND-UP

Island growth

EXPORTS FROM THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO grew a remarkable 107 percent last year due to heightened demand for its products. Export figures indicated that traders from the South were unaffected by the slowdown that was felt on the national level.

Data from the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo) showed that export revenues reached $1.68 billion in 2005. The 107-percent export growth of Mindanao was way above the country's 3.9-percent total export growth last year.

Romeo Montenegro, an economist from MedCo, said that the top exports last year included coconut oil, fresh bananas, sintered ore agglomerates, pineapples and nickel ores.

Michelle V. Remo

Fuel blend meets RP standards

TO SOFTEN OIL FIRMS' OPPOSITION TO THE use of coco as a fuel blend, the Department of Energy revealed an analysis made by its US counterpart, which stated that coco methyl ester (CME)-blended diesel was just as good or even better than pure diesel.

Citing the report of a unit of the United States Department of Energy, Philippine officials said various tests performed on CME, both pure diesel and CME fuels met existing Philippine National Standards for diesel fuel quality.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc., all wanted to have more tests conducted on CME before consenting to sell pre-blended coco-biodiesel directly from their pumps.

Abigail L. Ho

Tree-lined power plant

THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER CORP. HAS planted close to 4,000 tree seedlings around its Batangas Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant (BCFTPP).

According to Napocor, the planting of the seeds falls under the state firm's Greening and Greenbelt Establishment Project, which involves planting some 10,000 trees in open areas around the power plant .

Napocor said the Power Plant Regreening Project and the establishment of greenbelts would be implemented in all of its generation facilities around the country.

Abigail L. Ho

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Stocks hit . . .

From page B1

at the 2,200 psychological level," AB Capital Securities also said in an advisory to clients yesterday.

All sectors were on the green, with value turnover reaching P1.5 billion. Gainers led losers 63 to 31 with 44 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 1.9 billion shares worth P1.499 billion ($29.3 million).

The peso was at 51.087 to the dollar as of mid-day.

Investors are cheering the fact that the government has been able to contain its budget deficit for the first two months of the year as revenues increase while corporate earnings look solid and set to rise.

"The market is buying all the good news," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities Inc. although he cautioned that some stocks now appear to be steep.

"We've seen strong foreign buying in the past sessions," said Nina Tinio of Unicapital Securities Inc. "It seems that confidence in the Philippine market has returned."

The national government kept its cash budget shortfall at P40.4 billion for the first two months of this year—16 percent below the target figure—as improved revenue collections offset increased spending because of debt servicing.

The Department of Finance said that in February, when the value-added tax (VAT) rose to 12 percent from 10 percent, the budget deficit amounted to P25 billion, P2.2 billion below than the target ceiling.

The government kept its two-month budget deficit below the programmed ceiling of P48.1 billion despite some overspending in February.

Revenue collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Treasury jumped across the board, helping the government raise P136.9 billion in revenues in January and February, up 21.1 percent from P113.1 billion in the same period last year and exceeding by P9.1 billion the two-month target set at P127.8 billion.

The BIR exceeded its two-month collection target by P2.5 billion, posting P91.2 billion, up 23.8 percent year-on-year.

Also, remittances from overseas Filipino workers surged by 16.5 percent in January to $917 million from $787 million a year ago on the back of increasing appetite to invest in local property assets.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone was the main mover, up P35 at P1,865.

Top-traded Ayala Corp. rose P5 to P350 while its unit Ayala Land Inc. gained 25 centavos to P11.

Globe Telecom Inc. was up P5 at P900.

Bank of the Philippine Islands fell 50 centavos to P63 on profit-taking after rising in the past sessions.

San Miguel Corp. A shares ended steady at P60.50, while San Miguel Corp. B shares advanced P1.50 to P80.50.

With a report from AFP

RP seen . . .

From page B1

"We have proven that fiber optics not only transmit data or voice, but also Filipino hospitality," she said. "Because it's not yet possible to download a handshake or e-mail a hug, the next best substitute is a Filipino call center employee."

It is unclear, however, how Ms Arroyo arrived at her estimate, although the government has been trying to encourage job creation in the information and communications technology sector in recent years as a means to offset the rising level of joblessness in the country.

Yesterday, the President attended the opening of the Dell contact center, which has initially hired 300 employees to provide technical support to the company's clients abroad.

During the event, Michael Dell, chair of the world's largest computer manufacturer, announced plans to expand the contact center, first to its full compliment of 700 employees, before further adding 1,400 seats to it.

"Our plan is to expand [to 1,400 employees], then we'll evaluate it from there," Dell said during a briefing.

The contact center occupies 145,000 square feet of space at the SM Mall of Asia complex at the controversial Pasay City reclamation area.

A statement released by Dell said the facility is equipped for the company's most sophisticated training programs, and features "technologically advanced" tools for delivering "superior customer experience."

"This new facility is a result of the direct way we do business, and it's an important investment that demonstrates our commitment to providing customers with the best possible experience whenever they contact [us]," Dell said.

Dell officials declined to reveal the cost of the facility or how much more they plan to invest in it to double its capacity.

The company has 30 other contact centers operating around the world, making its local operations more of a token presence, especially after Dell announced the previous day plans to hire up to 20,000 employees for its operations in India.

The Pasay site is Dell's second facility in Metro Manila. Last year, the company opened a 17,000-square-foot recruiting and training center in Makati City.

In a related development, Dell said the company expects the local market for personal computers to continue to grow at a fast pace, in line with rising demand for PCs all over the world.

Dell said the company sees local demand for its products growing by 30 percent to 40 percent this year.

Ramon's multiple Angst

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

RAMON ANG WOULD EASILY QUALIFY as one of the most overworked management executive in the country today.

The president and chief operating officer of the sprawling San Miguel Corp. has been given his 30th simultaneous chairmanship, that of Del Monte Pacific Ltd., the Singaporean-listed fruit and beverage company that San Miguel and Unilab heir Joselito Campos Jr. recently acquired.

Prior to Del Monte, Ang, 50, was already chairman of the board of 24 other companies, mostly part of the San Miguel empire, but also including a number of non-San Miguel ventures like Philippine Diamond Hotel, the moribund Cyber Bay and two other real estate concerns.

Ang, the trusted lieutenant of San Miguel chairman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. also sits as chair and president of the Smits, the San Miguel IT Services Group also based in the Ortigas headquarters, and the little-known San Miguel Mills Inc.

As a further indication that he is the de facto third and most powerful "son" of Cojuangco, Ang is also listed as the chairman and president of three post-office box companies headquartered in the tax-haven shelters of Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, and Labuan, East Malaysia.

The total does not include the 16 other local and foreign companies where Ang also sits as director and, in one, as vice chairman.

Even during the early Erap days when Cojuangco regained control of San Miguel 12 years after his abrupt departure, Ang had been heard telling friends and associates about the long working hours at the country's largest food, packing and beverage concerns.

Still, the time concerns did not deter both Cojuangco and Ang from engineering the aggressive domestic and foreign acquisitions that have made San Miguel into a serious, if somewhat leveraged, regional player.

On La Salle's 'padasal'

THE LA SALLE prayer brigade led by Bro. Armin Luistro indeed had a frank meeting with the La Salle alumni donors ticked off by the "oust-GMA" use of the Taft campus.

But the outcome of the encounter, although it eased tensions, could not apparently even be diplomatically termed as "fruitful."

"The meeting went very well and ended with a better understanding of [their] respective positions, [with] both sides agreeing to respect each other's views," said former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr.

Del Rosario confirmed that the meeting had indeed taken place in his Phinma penthouse office in Rockwell on March 7, not last week as previously reported in this column.

Del Rosario said alumni coordinator Bro. Rafael Donato was in the meeting, but held off giving other names.

According to the grapevine, former Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia and former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo were also present, as well as La Salle alumni and Mike Arroyo cousin Benito "Bomboy" Araneta, Marcos Roces, "Pocholo" Borromeo, new alumni association president Juanito Gervasio and his predecessor, Jose Tanjuatco.

According to the grapevine, Ocampo later on invited the group to his home for a "Part 2."

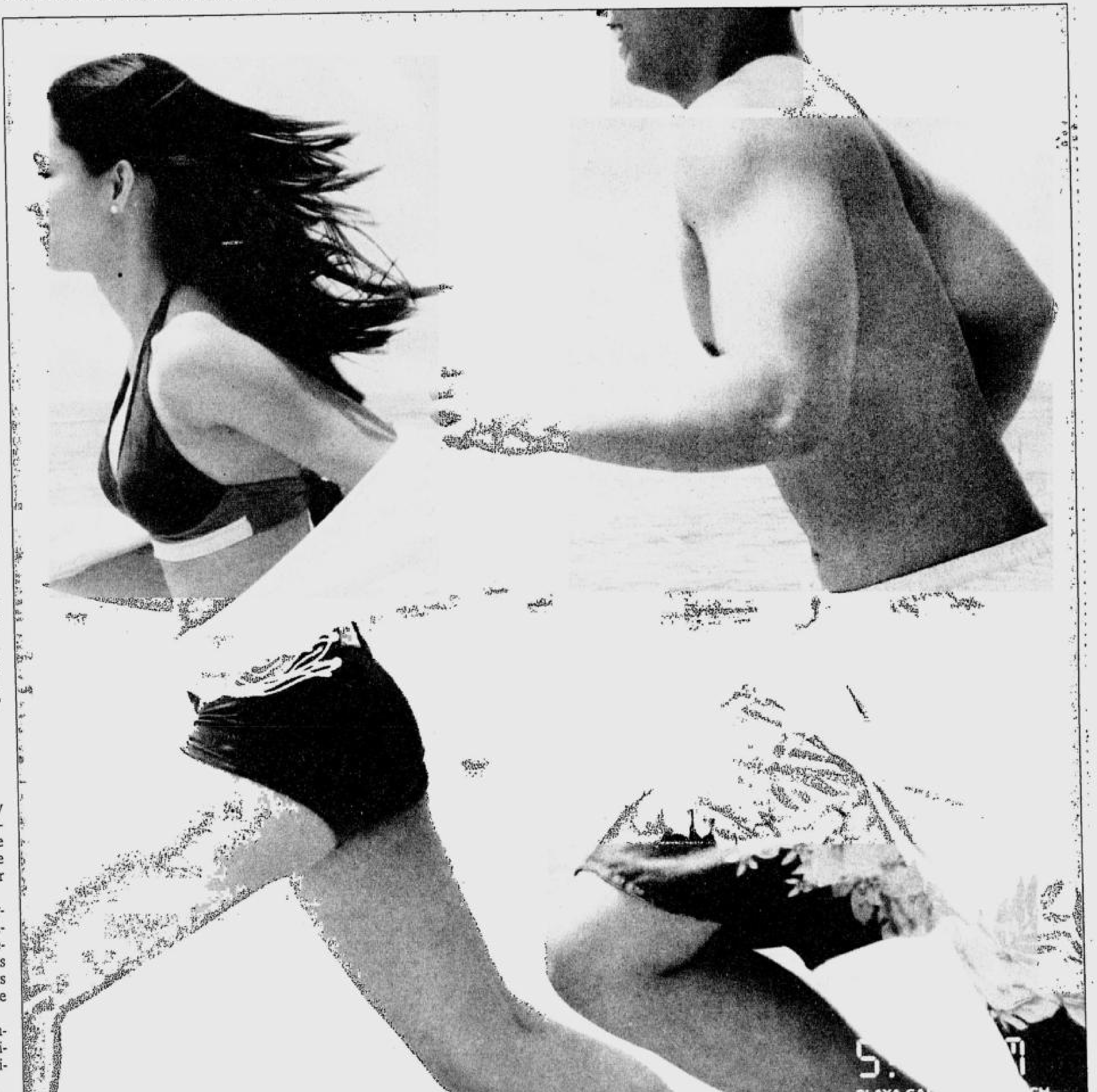
Part 2, it turned out, was, we are not kidding, ballroom dancing.

Heard through the grapevine

THE POLICE are now revising their charge against Dinky Soliman to that of buying and falsely advertising a "DKNY" imitation shirt which she acquired for P10 from 168 Mall.

As it turns out, the real DKNY does not come in extra-short, extra-wide sizes.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)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State banks to float bonds overseas

DBP, LBP need funds to comply with stiffer capitalization rules

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED LENDERS DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines are planning to enter the offshore bond market to raise $230 million to $280 million, top officials of these banks said.

The DBP intends to sell in April or May $130 million in hybrid instruments eligible as core or tier 1 capital. This is the first time DBP will venture into the foreign capital market.

Landbank plans to issue $100 million to $150 million worth of bonds for its supplementary or tier 2 capital during the same period. This will be its first attempt to borrow from overseas markets in nine years.

These activities will allow the two government banks, whose capital raising activities are restricted by their respective charters, to meet stiffer requirements under the new International Accounting Standards and Basle 2 capital adequacy framework.

During DBP's appreciation party for its conduit wholesale lenders Monday night, DBP president Reynaldo David said US-based global rating agency Standard & Poor's was undertaking a due diligence on the bank to rate its proposed hybrid bond float.

The planned offering, to be arranged by Barclays and Deutsche Bank, is still awaiting the BSP's and Department of Finance's approval, he said.

Hybrid tier 1 capital instruments have equity-like features that make them acceptable as tier 1 capital. They may be in the form of unsecured subordinated debt or preferred shares with step-up feature.

This and its planned domestic fund-raising activity will raise DBP's capital adequacy ratio to 38 percent from 25 percent, David said.

In the meantime, the DOF has approved Landbank's bid to issue up to $150 million in subordinated debt maturing in five years. "They removed the guarantees and we want it that way because we want it as tier 2 capital," Landbank president Gilda Pico said.

The bond issue will raise Landbank's capital adequacy ratio to 17 percent from the current 12.8 percent. It has mandated Deutsche Bank to manage its tier 2 issuance.

Landbank is the country's third biggest bank in terms of assets (P310.45 billion) as of end-2005 while the DBP ranks seventh with assets of P210.6 billion.

Investment firm plans to buy 3.6% of LRWC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS-REGISTERED investment firm Arlington Investments intends to acquire a 3.6-percent stake in bingo operator Leisure and Resorts World Corp.

Arlington's proposed investment infusion will raise for the bingo operator about P50 million, Leisure and Resorts president Alfredo Abelardo B. Benitez told investors in a briefing Monday.

An investor needs a 9-percent stake in Leisure and Resorts to acquire one board seat.

Benitez said Leisure and Resorts would issue new shares to Arlington. He is hoping the deal will be closed before the end of this month. This will be Arlington's first investment in the Philippines.

Leisure and Resorts earlier said it was negotiating with a foreign investment holding company with assets in Asia to buy a 3.6-percent stake in the company.

The prospective buyer has assets in Asia, particularly China, Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

The investor is interested to buy 28.5 million shares of Leisure at between P1.74 and 1.84 a share.

The shares under negotiation will come from the unissued portion of the authorized capital stock of Leisure and Resorts.

Leisure and Resorts intends to use the proceeds to fund its expansion plans, as well as those of its subsidiaries.

Leisure owns 100 percent of AB Leisure Exponent Inc. (popularly known as Bingo Bonanza).

Benitez said the company was planning to roll out 30-50 "bingo boutiques" in high pedestrian traffic locations this year.

Leisure and Resorts may spend P1-P2 million per boutique.

It also holds a 50.75-percent stake in First Cagayan, the master licensor of Internet gaming operations in the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Free Port.

Its unaudited net income for 2005 stood at P64.1 million, up from P20.3 million in 2004.

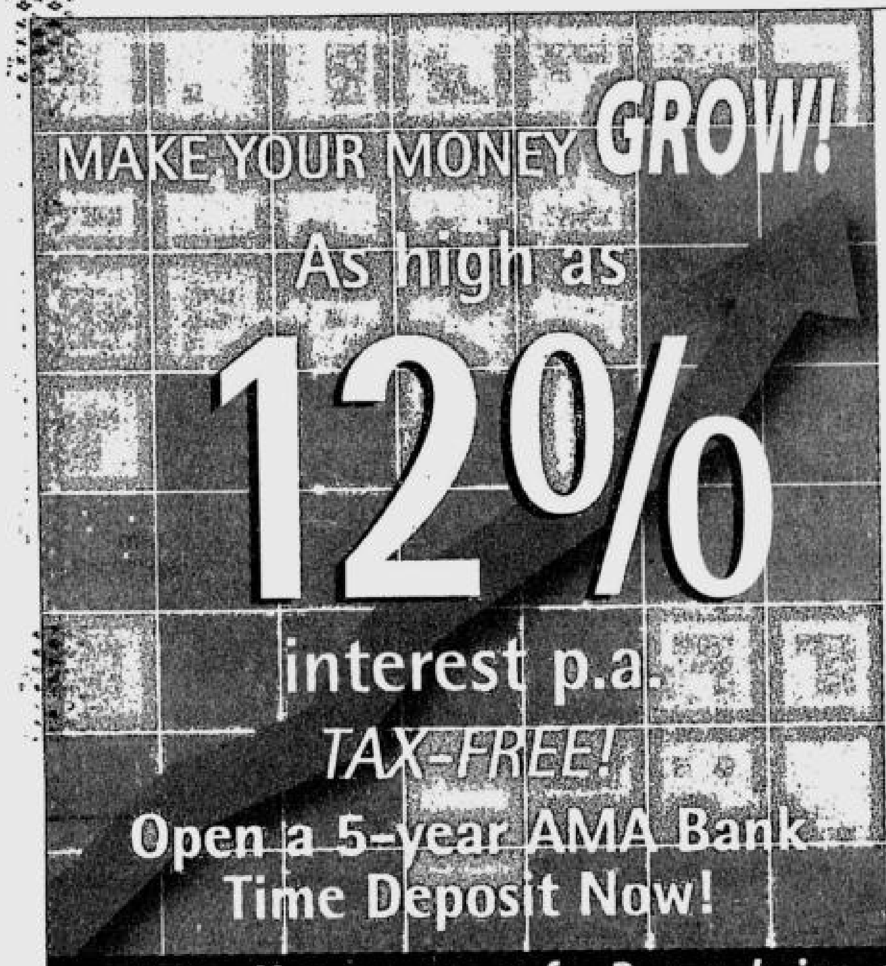
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 21, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	36	35.5	36	653,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63.5	63.5	63	63	1,458,300
China Banking Corp.	685	685	680	680	5,060
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	7,260,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	76	77.5	76	77.5	138,800
International Exch. Bank	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	22,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38	37.5	38	518,100
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32	31,600
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	6,200
Philippine Trust Co.	46	46	46	46	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	70,400
Security Bank Corp.	38.5	39	38.5	38.5	438,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	35	37	35	36	64,300
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3210	3210	3210	3210	80
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	110,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2160	2160	2145	2150	1,670
Ivantage Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	450,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42	42.5	42	42	74,200
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	45	42.5	43	1,342,600
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13.25	13	13.25	73,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20.25	19.75	19.75	537,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	4,308,000
Petron Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.6	4.6	6,355,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	470,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	19	19.5	19	19.25	465,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37	38.5	37	38	475,600
Pancake House Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.94	1.8	1.94	898,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60.5	60.5	60	60.5	136,900
San Miguel Corp. B	79	80.5	79	80.5	181,500
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	20,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.75	3,161,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	580,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	4,320,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.32	6,809,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.35	4.2	4.2	2,162,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	2,000,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	1,100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.45	1,760,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	48,000,000
Ayala Corp.	347.5	350	347.5	350	813,030
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	320,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	4.95	487,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.44	2.46	2.44	2.44	245,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	85,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	12,730,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.9	1,919,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	3.15	2.8	3.05	6,769,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.5	4,088,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,580,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	150,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	690,000
SM Investments Corp.	224	225	222	225	208,570
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	50,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	950,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11	11	10.75	11	3,584,100
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	6,335,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.25	1,650,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.86	1.76	1.84	9,057,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	10,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	2,920,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	370,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.52	11,880,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.027	1,200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.72	790,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.26	12,638,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	3	3.05	2.95	3.05	257,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	40,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	800,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.51	5,580,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.46	14,912,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	23,720,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.245	0.28	0.245	0.26	3,500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.7	7.1	6.7	6.9	710,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	4,300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	47,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8.1	7.9	8	2,958,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.135	0.14	3,210,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	55,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.92	0.88	0.92	5,950,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	895	915	895	900	51,530
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	1,704,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1840	1865	1840	1865	101,190
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	303,140,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	55,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	8,300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	22,000
Philweb Corp.	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.022	186,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	26,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12	12	11.75	11.75	2,259,700
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	230,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	2,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.86	1.86	4,676,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	210,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	920,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	600	605	600	605	200
IPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	65,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.66	1.6	1.64	176,000
Paxys Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.3	8.3	701,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	43,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	240,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	310,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	149,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	1,233,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.225	0.215	0.22	12,970,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.26	0.28	0.25	0.28	18,410,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	153,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	88,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	611,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	2.1	2.24	2.1	2.22	29,656,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.26	2.38	2.24	2.36	23,574,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	164,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	2,300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	200,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	480,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	57,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	40,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	220,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	21,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	12.75	13	12.5	12.75	618,700

CURRENCIES

March 21, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.821895	1.000000	51.0420
Japan	Yen	0.007072	0.008604	0.4392
United Kingdom	Pound	1.443988	1.756900	89.6757
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105937	0.128894	6.5790
Switzerland	Franc	0.636684	0.774653	39.5398
Canada	Dollar	0.709448	0.863185	44.0587
Singapore	Dollar	0.509292	0.619655	31.6284
Australia	Dollar	0.593340	0.721917	36.8481
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.180903	2.653505	135.4402
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219149	0.266638	13.6097
Brunei	Dollar	0.507719	0.617742	31.5308
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021243	0.025846	1.3192
UAE	Dirham	0.223791	0.272287	13.8981
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.216700	62.1028
Argentina	Peso	0.267457	0.325415	16.6098
Brazil	Real	0.384494	0.467814	23.8782
Denmark	Kroner	0.134001	0.163039	8.3218
India	Rupee	0.018574	0.022599	1.1535
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222284	0.270453	13.8045
Mexico	New Peso	0.076342	0.092885	4.7410
New Zealand	Dollar	0.513845	0.625195	31.9112
Norway	Kroner	0.125814	0.153078	7.8134
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013680	0.016644	0.8495
South Africa	Rand	0.131046	0.159444	8.1383
Korea	Won	0.000850	0.001034	0.0528
Sweden	Kroner	0.107049	0.130246	6.6480
Syria	Pound	0.015833	0.019264	0.9833
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025386	0.030887	1.5765
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000383	0.000466	0.0238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Gov't may increase domestic borrowings

Taking advantage of low interest rates, minimizing exposure to forex risks

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said the government was considering increasing its domestic borrowings to as much as 65 percent of its total financing requirement for the year if interest rates would remain favorable.

Under the fiscal program for 2006, the government intends to borrow 52 percent of its financing requirements from domestic creditors and secure the remaining 48 percent from foreign lenders.

The 52-percent share of domestic borrowings to the total funding requirement would amount to about P310 billion, while the 48-percent foreign credit translates to about $4 billion.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the programmed borrowing mix of 52:48 could still be adjusted depending on fiscal and interest rate developments.

"We don't need to fix the borrowing program (at 52:48). Local borrowings may account for 60 or 65 percent of total financing requirement if the situation in the domestic front remained favorable," Teves said in Filipino during a televised round-table discussion with President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

Christine Sanchez, the country's deputy treasurer, said in the same forum that the 91-day Treasury bill rate had recently slid to the 5-percent level from as high as 10 percent.

The decline in the rates of Treasury bills and bonds made the government's domestic borrowings cheaper, creating more room in its tight budget for other expenditures other than debt servicing.

Finance officials said interest rates on the Philippines' foreign borrowings had also been declining amid the government's improving fiscal condition.

But Teves said the DOF preferred domestic borrowings over foreign loans which could expose the government to foreign exchange risks.

The finance chief was quick to add, however, that adjusting the government's borrowing mix would not solely be the call of the DOF. He said the policy on the government' borrowing schedule would have to be consulted with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which monitors the country's dollar holdings.

While the DOF is eager to borrow more from domestic rather than foreign sources, the BSP does not share the same enthusiasm because lower foreign borrowings would mean lower gross international reserves (GIR).

GIR measures the capability of the country to meet its import requirements and the BSP's ability to protect the peso from speculative attacks.

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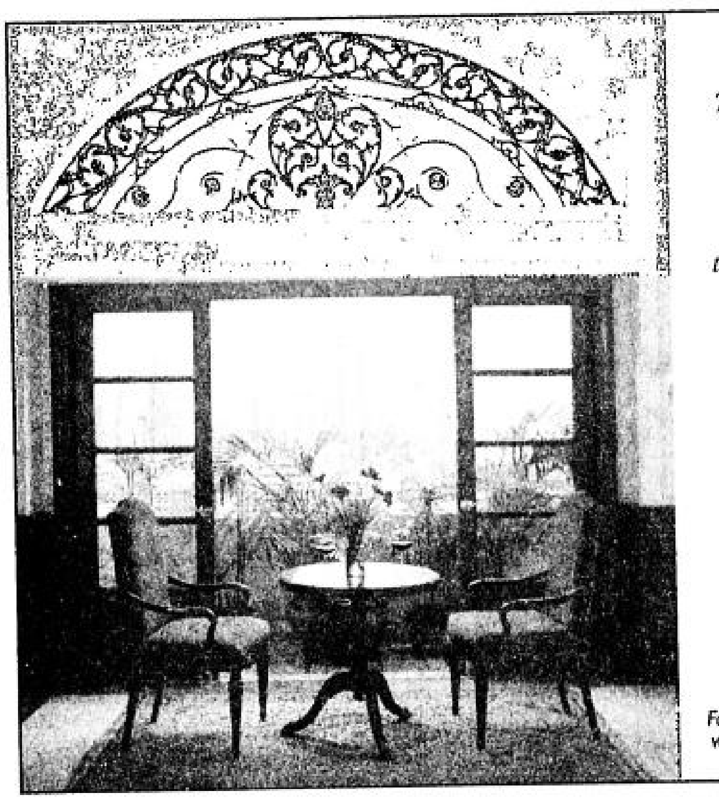

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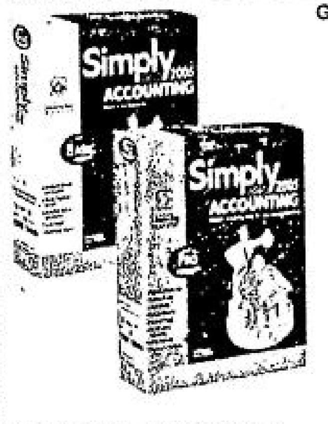

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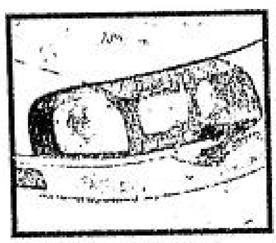
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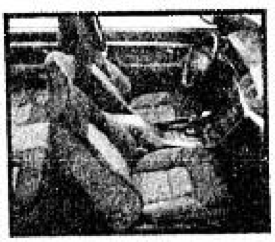
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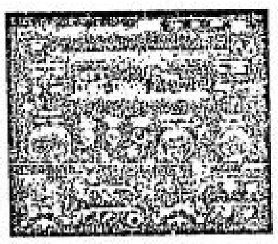
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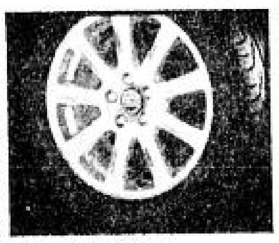
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BPI plans to dispose of bad assets worth ₱10B

Market prospects getting better as investor interest in RP improves

By Doris C. Dumlao

MONTINOLA

THE AYALAS' BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISlands plans to unload as much as P10 billion worth of bad assets this year.

BPI president Aurelio Montinola III said the bank had planned to unload only P5 billion to P6 billion worth of non-performing loans and foreclosed real estate assets this year. This might be increased to as much as P10 billion worth of bad assets in view of improving foreign investors interest in the country.

Montinola said the bank's optimism was not even hinged on the prospective extension of the Special Purpose Vehicle Act.

He said more foreign investors were interested in going to the Philippines now.

"Before we were talking to only one or two (potential buyers) at any given time. Now we're talking to three to five groups. I think they're talking to other banks too, and that's good for the country," Montinola said.

Last year, BPI unloaded about P4.6 billion in bad assets—P2.1 billion worth real and properties owned and acquired (ropoas) and P2.5 billion worth of non-performing loans.

He said BPI's total bad assets were estimated at P45-P48 billion, composed of about P34 billion worth of ropoas and P14 billion worth of soured loans. These figures included bad assets inherited from BPI's latest acquisition, Prudential Bank.

"On BPI side, our NPL ratio is below 5 percent. It increased to 6.8 percent when we included those of Prudential Bank," Montinola said.

Montinola said BPI would also focus on cleaning up the bad assets assumed from Prudential Bank.

"It would be nice if we could bring that (NPL ratio) to 6 or even 5.5 percent," he said.

At the same time, BPI is aiming at a higher loan growth this year at 7-8 percent, or much more than the projected loan growth rate of 3-4 percent for the entire banking industry.

He said the 10 percent rise in BPI's outstanding loans in 2005 was partly due to the acquisition of Prudential Bank.

He said it was too early to tell how much profit BPI, which posted a net profit of P8.4 billion in 2005, would realize this year.

"Sometimes when the economy improves, the spreads also tighten. We'll just have to see what happens this year," Montinola says.

Gov't to speed up rehab, repair of irrigation systems

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILL fast track the rehabilitation and repair of the country's national and communal irrigation systems in time for the planting season, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said.

Panganiban said the Presidential directive to pump prime the economy listed agriculture as one of the government's priority programs.

He said that out of the P3.23 billion required for the irrigation program this year, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) had released P1.96 billion.

So far, irrigated water systems have been restored in areas covering 21,703 hectares under the National Irrigation Administration's irrigation system rehabilitation and repair program, Panganiban said.

This program was aimed at irrigating 90,000 hectares of farmlands to achieve the government's rice production target for 2006.

Panganiban said the government was focusing on irrigation support because the lack of it was the main reason for the country's failure to meet its rice production targets in the previous years.

According to the NIA, of the total 3.126 million hectares of land planted to rice nationwide, only 44.84 percent or 1.402 million hectares have functioning irrigation systems. Some 1.724 million hectares either have defective irrigation systems or were relying primarily on rainwater for rice planting activities.

Panganiban said that with the support given by the government to the irrigation program, the agriculture department was expecting to restore irrigated water to an 618,730 hectares by 2008.

The government has earmarked P25 billion for the three-year irrigation rehabilitation program aimed at supporting agriculture to achieve its goal of rice sufficiency by 2009, Panganiban said.

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Plan to stop automatic debt servicing bucked

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS OPposed the plan in Congress to lift the automatic budget appropriation for debt servicing, saying it would affect the Philippines' ability to get credit from the international financial community.

The DOF said in a position paper that getting prior Congressional approval for debt servicing could tempt some legislators to call for a debt moratorium, which it said could wreak havoc on the economy.

The DOF cited the case of Argentina, Peru and Russia, that found themselves with even bigger economic problems than what they had before they declared a debt moratorium.

Argentina's unemployment rate rose to 18 percent and its currency depreciated by more than 100 percent in 2001 when it said it could no longer guarantee payments of its foreign obligations, the DOF said.

Peru, on the other hand, was declared an "ineligible borrower" by the International Monetary Fund in 1985 and thus found difficulty sourcing foreign credit.

Some Congressmen filed bills to lift the automatic budget allocation for debt servicing on grounds that less money was being spent on vital infrastructure and social projects, such as health and education.

Government data showed that the share of debt servicing in the budget has increased from 35 percent 2000 to as much as 68 percent in 2004.

"The Department respects the concern of the House of Representatives that the growing debt stock of the country could undermine the government's ability to provide our people with much needed social services and infrastructure projects," the DOF said.

It stressed, however, that "the problem is not the growing debt stock but rather shortfalls in revenue collections."

The DOF added that under the current fiscal problem, the government intends to address the measly budget for infrastructure and basic services by shoring up revenue collection through tax measures.

One such measure was the recent hike in the value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent.

"Back in 1983, the Philippines declared a moratorium that saw the peso plunge from 9.20 against the US dollar to 18.20 in less than a year," the DOF said.

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CLSA expects banks to cut NPLs

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

EQUITY RESEARCH firm CLSA Philippines is optimistic that the bad assets of Philippine banks will further go down to P280 billion this year, head of research Alfred Dy said in a report.

Dy said the banks' nonperforming assets—composed of bad loans and foreclosed assets—fell 20 percent to P359 billion in 2005 from P441 billion in 2004.

Dy attributed the reduction of the banks' bad assets to the following: Expansion of industry loans by an average of 3.6 percent per year since 2001; the sale of bad loans to asset management firms under the special purpose vehicle act, and property prices that have bottomed out are recovering, making these assets more attractive to potential buyers.

Congress, through a bicameral conference committee, has extended the SPV law for another two years adopting the Senate version which limited the nonperforming loans eligible for incentives.

CLSA also expects banks' NPAs to slide to P205 billion by 2007.

Dy said CLSA also remained positive on the prospects of the banking sector.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office - Visayas**, through its Bids and Awards Committee - Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A: Name of Contract : **Proposed Port Development Project**
Location : Brgy. Tiana, Limasawa Island, Southern Leyte
Major Items of Work : 1.) Construction of RC Pier (6.0 x 24.0 m)
2.) Construction of RoRo Ramp (9.0 x 9.0 m)
3.) Reclamation Area (6.0 x 18.0 m)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P13,384,332.63
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : Two Hundred Twenty (220) Calendar Days
CAB Registration : **Medium A** "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering"
Required Equipments :

1)	1 unit	Boom Truck (5.0 T)	- Owned
2)	4 units	Bar Cutter	- Owned
3)	4 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	- Owned
4)	4 units	Concrete Vibrator	- Owned
5)	2 units	Bar Bender	- Owned
6)	2 units	Welding Machine (150 Amp)	- Owned
7)	1 unit	Backhoe (0.70 cu.m.)	- Owned/Leased
8)	1 unit	Rock Grapple (2.0 cu.m.)	- Owned/Leased
9)	1 unit	Truckmounted Crane (3.50 T)	- Owned/Leased
10)	1 unit	Plate Compactor	- Owned/Leased
11)	1 unit	Road Roller/Compactor 10.0 T)	- Owned/Leased
12)	1 unit	Road Grader (125 hp)	- Owned/Leased
13)	1 unit	Crane Barge (DWT 450T)	- Owned/Leased
14)	1 unit	Drop Hammer (2T)	- Owned/Leased
15)	1 unit	Diesel Hammer (33.0 T)	- Owned/Leased

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license and registration particulars applicable to the type and cost of the contract to be bid, have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract, must have completed **50% for Major Items of Work** (indicated above) on contract/projects with similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid within the past **Five (5) years** immediately preceding the publication of this invitation; with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Statement. Applications for eligibility, as well as the preliminary examination of bids, will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" criteria. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will be awarded only to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	April 05-11, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	April 05-17, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	April 24, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, photocopy of PCAB License and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,100.00** (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P2,500.00** (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JAMES J. GANTALAO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 22 & 29, 2006)

IT firms urged to seek Aussie partners

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-enabled service firms have been urged to go into partnerships with Australian firms to take advantage of the growing demand for business process outsourcing services in Australia.

James Haensly, vice president of New South Wales-based FooBooOnline.com, said in a statement that the market was growing since outsourcing was relatively new in Australia.

Business process outsourcing refers to the trend in industrialized countries of getting third-party firms in countries with lower wages to perform non-core functions, such as accounting and customer service, to cut costs.

Haensly said activities likely to be outsourced to Philippine companies include financial back office transactions, IT services and data transcription.

Headquartered in Chattswood, FooBoo is a consulting and brokerage firm that caters to BPO market in Asia Pacific.

He, however, said that local companies should look for partnerships with Australian counterparts to get a foothold in Australia's BPO market.

"Since Australia is just getting started on the BPO wave and the business culture is different (there) compared to United States, it would be essential to have excellent partnerships in the local market to build the confidence, connections and opportunities in the first few years," Haensly said.

He added that in the next five years, outsourcing firms would expect more than just reducing costs.

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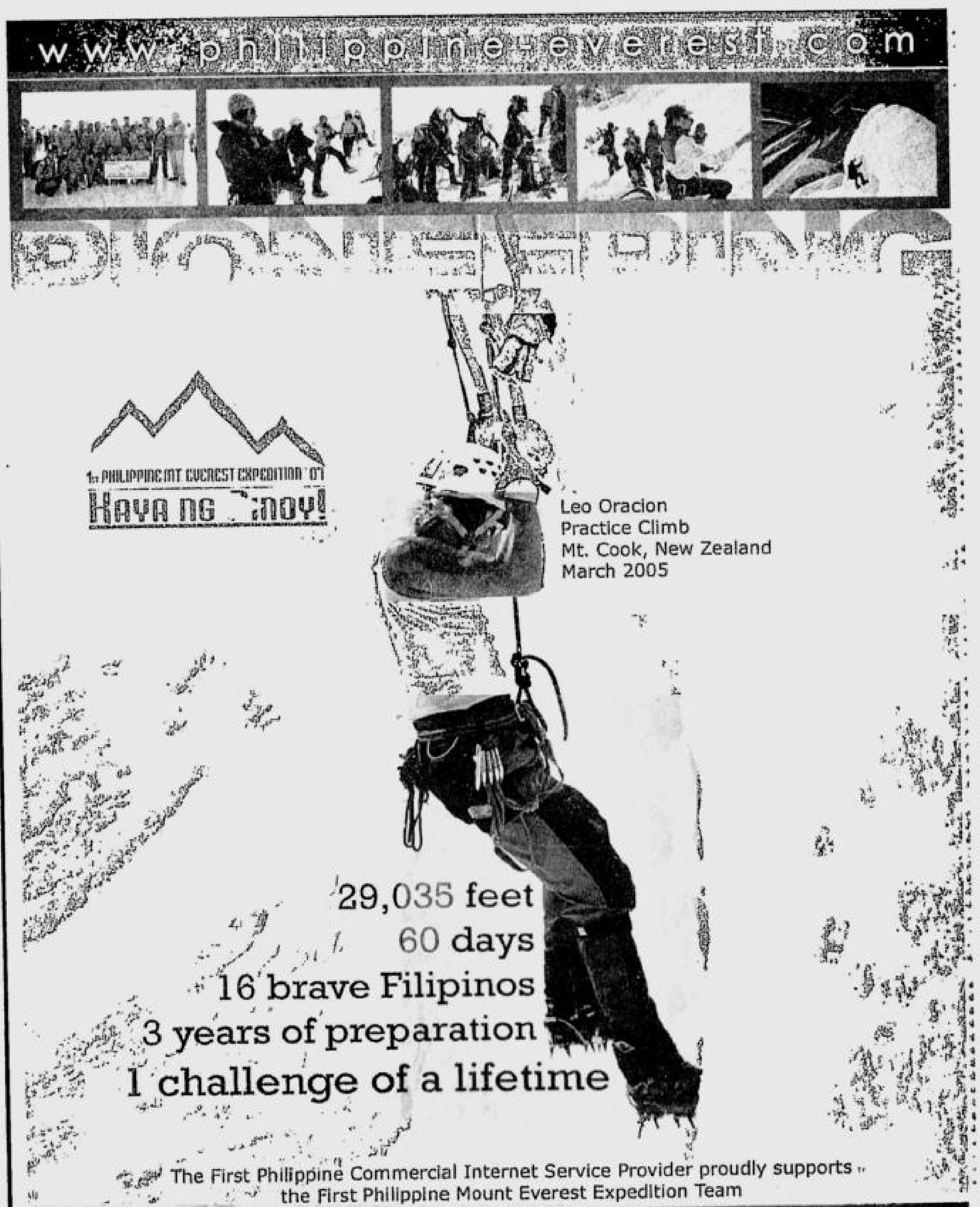
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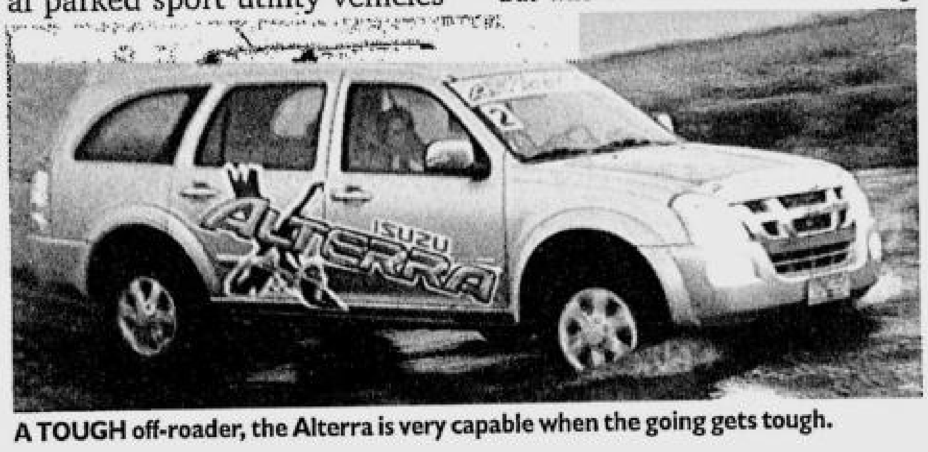
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

To Mt. Pinatubo and back

By Charles E. Buban

SO YOUR GROUP will also bring those Alterras to Mt. Pinatubo tomorrow?" inquired one off-road club member pointing to several parked sport utility vehicles of Isuzu. "Yes, together with the D-Max pickups," this writer answered back.

He didn't inquire further although this writer sensed his disbelief wondering perhaps why our group would risk driving the Alterra to Mt. Pinatubo's rugged and unforgiving terrain.



A TOUGH off-roader, the Alterra is very capable when the going gets tough.

But who could blame him for being antsy? After all, most of today's SUVs are designed to be more "civilized" and besides their drivers seldom go off-road but rather stay on the paved streets most of the time.

"Many of today's buyers are attracted by an SUV's aggressive looking stance and other exciting features. Sadly, they no longer bother whether the vehicle is capable enough to venture to far off beaten path or will it perform as expected when circumstances warrant it," Art Balmadrid, Isuzu Philippines Corp. VP for corporate business division.

Explore places

However, Naval noted there will be some people who do or would want to take their SUVs off the road to explore places that they could not go with a car, and to enjoy the driving at the same time.

This is what IPC ought to showcase with its Alterra and the D-Max when it organized the Isuzu Mt. Pinatubo 4x4 Drive early this month.

"For IPC the better way is to venture to places where our latest vehicle offerings will be tested thoroughly. As a matter of fact, this is IPC's third time in Mt. Pinatubo since this is one of those places where we can evaluate our vehicles in off-road situations," said Timmy Naval, IPC public relations manager.

Ronald Baladad, IPC public relations supervisor added: "Our customers appreciate that the Alterra features a Touch-On-The-Fly system that will allow them to engage to different four-wheel-drive modes while driving, that it is powered by a three-liter direct-injection turbocharged diesel engine that promises to be a powerful yet efficient power plant, and that is equipped with Isuzu's patented Flex Ride MOVE (Mobility On Versatile Equilibrium) that promises a much smoother and comfortable ride. But would it be nice to experience these features in actual situation?"

'Warm up' the Alterra

Indeed, IPC was so confident that the day before the group's actual drive to Mt. Pinatubo, they let us motoring media to take turns in "warming up" the Alterra (around Sacobia bridge near Clark Centennial Expo) for the next day's event.

That afternoon of driving through loose or slippery grounds—plus how the way some of the drivers zigged and zagged the Alterra—already proved the SUV's readiness.

Although the way to Pinatubo's crater is always difficult, Alterra's straightforward system easily pulled itself through rocky river crossings. The Alterra's four-wheel-drive low-gear setting was essentially helpful for creeping over big rocks and slogging through loose sands.

In the end, the Alterra made us all believers. Considering the Alterra that the group used all carried standard sets of equipment, they still went home unscathed excepts for the expected dirt and grime.

"Our buyers should now feel confident that they not only have a handsome SUV but also highly capable off-road companion," said Baladad.

Nissan sacrifice worth our while

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I HAVE TO GIVE IT TO NISSAN.

For its decision to recall its best-selling X-Trail sold since 2003, Nissan made a big sacrifice that could cost the Japanese automaker losses in millions of dollars.

The recall was a result of a factory defect discovered in the fuel tank.

In its statement to announce the recall of 475,400 units of the Nissan Primera and Nissan X-Trails, Nissan said the affected countries include those from Africa, the Middle East and Asia/Oceania, including Australia, Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. Only Canada, which introduced the X-Trail last year, is not included in the recall list.

In the Philippines, some 4,000 X-Trails are affected by the recall.

Since its introduction in July 2003, more than 6,400 X-Trails were sold in the Philippines. But X-Trails produced after January 2005 are not affected by the recall.

The recall is related to the fuel inlet to the gasoline tank called the fuller filler tube, which may rust at the tube-mounting bracket. A pinhole may result from the rust formation, which can cause a fuel leak during full refueling.

But the formation of rust will take anywhere from 10 to 15 years to develop enough perforation for a pinhole to form, depending on humidity and other factors.

"I would like to emphasize that it is the overall safety of all Nissan vehicles that is paramount in this campaign. This is the reason we are engaging in this voluntary recall campaign to inspect and service affected vehicles. The cost of this campaign will run into millions of pesos, but that is something that Nissan is willing to shoulder completely for the peace of mind of our X-Trail buyers," Said Leman Lee, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. president and CEO.

Starting May this year, all Nissan dealers nationwide will replace free-of-charge the fuel filler tube with one that has a higher protection against corrosion.

"It is now standard practice for all car manufacturers worldwide to make a recall of certain vehicle models when a potential problem has been identified. In fact, there have been more than a dozen recalls made every year worldwide since 2002 by various carmakers for certain vehicle models," Lee said.

"It only takes about one and a half hours to replace the part but we do not want to inconvenience our customers, so we will start by doing inspections first," said Rolando Gutierrez, NMPI's after-sales and service manager. "The campaign will go on until we completely changed the parts on all the 4,070 units under the recall order."

NMPI also clarified that no other vehicle in its lineup is affected by the recall, particularly all the variants of the Sentra, Cefiro and Serena.

"It is worth noting that our X-Trail customers are very much happy with the quality and performance of their units, and it is for this reason that we owe them proper action on this matter," Lee said.

* * *

CHEERS TO CIVIC! Do you know that the Honda Civic is 33 years old this year? On its 33rd year, the Civic was chosen the 2006 Car of the Year by Motor Trend, one of America's most prestigious auto magazines. Consistently, the Civic is voted Car of the Year in its class. The award extends to the entire Civic Sedan and Civic Coupé lineup including the environmentally responsible Civic Hybrid and high-performance Civic Si models. The Motor Trend editorial staff selected the Honda Civic from a field of 28 new or substantially revised models—the largest to date—recognizing it for exceptional value, superiority in its class and the most significant development on the new-car scene for 2006. Testing took place over a two-week period that included thousands of miles of on-track driving and on-street evaluation, along with several days of walk-around appraisals. Hooray! That calls for a celebration, Don Arnel (Doria)? I can see Arnel's angels—Tin Tin, Sheryl and Carla—smiling.

* * *

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And now, Chinese cars

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

ALTHOUGH AN UNPLEASANT INCIDENT marred the launching here on Feb. 28 of a Chinese brand of motor vehicles, it will by no means stop the eventual influx of Chinese-made cars.

In 2005, China exported 172,800 vehicles (mostly trucks), an increase of 27 percent from the previous year. Chery Automobile Co., one Chinese manufacturer, sold 18,000 passenger cars overseas. Chery and other Chinese car exporters are currently focused on the Middle East, Russia and Southeast Asia but are eyeing the rich North American and European markets. To sell cars, not just trucks.

In fact, Chery aims to sell cars in the United States in late 2007 via American entrepreneur Malcolm Bricklin. By 2008, Chery hopes to export 300,000 to 400,000 cars to the United States and other countries. Geely, another manufacturer, plans to produce two million cars a year by 2015, with two-thirds of these to be sold outside China.

Standards

But will Chinese cars meet US and European safety, quality and environmental standards? At present, not likely, although foreign automakers that have joint ventures with China's state-owned car companies already export cars. Honda Motor Co. jointly runs a factory in Shanghai with Guangzhou Automobile Group and Dongfeng Honda Automobile Co. that produces the Jazz compact car for export. Honda expects to ship 25,000 Jazz units from China to Europe this year and the export figure will be increased to 50,000 eventually.

Made-in-China cars were already being sold in the Philippines long before the Nexus brand was launched last month. However, these cars are, strictly speaking, not Chinese cars as they bear the General Motors brand: the Chevrolet Venture minivan and the Chevolet Lumina midsize sedan.

GM, by the way, sued Chery, alleging that Chery's best-selling export model, the four-door compact known as the QQ, was a copy of a car designed by GM's South Korean affiliate, GM Daewoo. The two reached a settlement last year, but would not reveal details. One or two Japanese carmakers have also sued Chinese manufacturers in the past for copying their designs, but I can't remember which brand.

Determined

The Chinese penchant for copying foreign automakers' innovations and designs and the generally inconsistent quality may not win buyers outside China despite the lower prices, but watch out! China is determined to transform its automobile manufacturing industry into a global force.

The Lifan Group, one of the world's biggest motorcycle manufacturers with sales in 112 countries, together with the Communist Party is bidding to buy a sophisticated car engine plant in Brazil from Daimler-Chrysler and BMW in order to take it apart, piece by piece, and transport it to western China where it will be put back together again.

If Lifan succeeds, China could leapfrog. South Korea to catch up with Japan, Germany and the United States in producing fuel-efficient yet comfortable cars like the Honda Civic and the Toyota Corolla. For the biggest technical obstacle facing Chinese automakers is their failure to develop a sophisticated, reliable engine as they modernize and prepare to export to the United States and Europe.

Tritec engine

The Campo Largo engine factory that Lifan wants to buy was built in southern Brazil in the late 1990s at a cost of $500 million by a 50-50 joint venture of Chrysler (before its takeover by Daimler-Benz) and BMW. It combines the latest American and German technology to produce the 1.6-liter, 16-valve Tritec engine, one of the most technologically advanced and fuel-efficient car engines in the world.

By the time production began in September 1998, however, the Campo Largo engine factory was already a corporate orphan due to Daimler's takeover of Chrysler. Daimler had ample engine manufacturing capacity of its own and was uncomfortable collaborating with its German archrival, BMW.

Nonetheless, BMW installed its half of the engines from Campo Largo in its Mini Cooper while Chrysler put its share of the engines into its Neon compact cars and the PT Cruiser. Now, BMW has announced that future engines for the Mini Cooper will come from a factory in France owned by PSA Peugeot Citroen.

Even if Lifan succeeds in bringing the Campo Largo engine plant home, China won't find it easy entering developed car markets. It took Japanese car companies some 20 years to establish themselves in the US market, Korean automakers did it in about 10. How long will it take the Chinese? @ (With reports from The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times)

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: It you win the rat race, you're still a rat.

Lessons in and from failure

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

A BAD EXPERIENCE, EVEN WITH the smallest of automotive details, is often the first step down the long provincial highway of disenchantment. It would not be exaggerated to say that we demand nothing less than faithful, unerring operation from the simplest of features found on our automobiles.

Being mechanical in nature, no amount of maintenance or care can stave off the inevitable failure of any of a myriad of a car's systems. Strangely, it is in these moments of failure that we learn more about cars—and sometimes more of our own selves.

Hydraulic brake line failure

There are failures that are categorically more catastrophic than the odd cabin bulb conking out or the cigarette lighter that does not glow orange anymore. Take a hydraulic brake line failure for instance. Characteristically signaled by a sickening, sinking feeling, this motoring malady is physically manifested by the middle pedal slowly traveling all the way to the floor pan.

The ability to brake is severely hindered and gets to a point where only an immovable object will halt your now unstoppable hunk of metal on four wheels. You're lucky if this occurs in crawling traffic as fender benders are more often than not, survivable.

Take this system failure to an empty stretch of expressway, at double the legal speed limit and I'm sure many will begin to contemplate their continued existence on this earth. Purpose Driven Life or not, you will ask "what's it all about" questions when faced with the lethality of velocity. Trust me on this one.

Then there are the immediate and catastrophic "absence of traction" situations—random, freak events that will put the fear of a supreme being into most any spiritual skeptic. There's nothing like a complete tire failure or an unintended aquaplaning stunt to make one proclaim their faith, out loud and with the utmost fervor and conviction.

Significant factors

Tire failures are fewer and far between these days, owing to two significant factors:

1. Slower average speeds are traveled these days because of the worsening traffic. The tires therefore are not asked to operate at the limits of temperature, friction and speed anymore.

2) Technology is allowing tires to deal with so much more trauma and abuse. One can be assured that once a blowout occurs, something rather extreme has happened to the tire.

Aquaplaning, or skidding out of control over water, is also an equally rare occurrence nowadays. Again, improvements in the ability of tires to displace standing water or to critically reacquaint themselves with the road surface are almost bulletproof in this day and age.

Not every drive into a puddle of water will result in a total loss of grip and poise. It takes a very foolish or unlucky person to find themselves in such a cheek-clenching predicament, with several factors having to be in cahoots to produce a truly terrible (or terrific) slide. Speed and sudden, improper turn-ins are the biggest culprits in this case.

I've personally been in both these uncontrolled situations in the last half year or so, probably owing more to the fact that I spend quite a lot of seat time in cars but also quite possibly just something that can be attributed to my dodgy luck. My resignation is more stubborn and dumb than stoically defiant, actually.

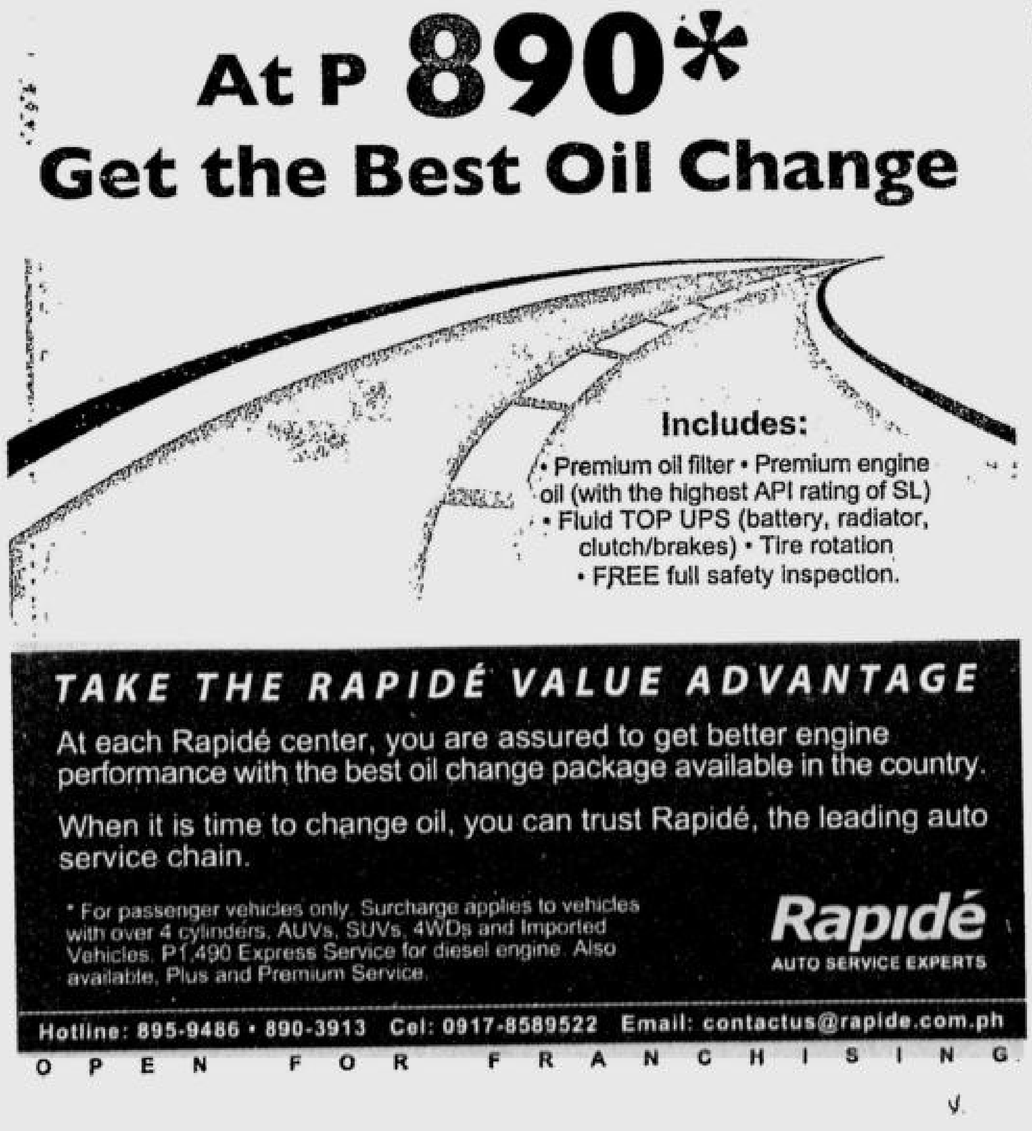
What about the less life-threatening situations when something in our cars fails to deliver as promised? Is there as much to be learned from these annoying occurrences?

Horn malfunction

Just last week the horn on my daily drive failed in the middle of my morning commute. While this particular malfunction sounds rather innocuous, imagine the sheer terror of not being able to warn rampaging buses of the existence of a tiny little hatchback. It's like not being able to say, "Excuse me," to the schoolyard bully on your way to the drinking fountain.

During the postmortem on the spent horn, it was discovered that there was no electrical problem that caused said system to tank. It just failed due to too much use and abuse, somewhat a rare occurrence in a car that is less than two years old. Chalk this one up to driving habits and my volatile temper. In the end I did the poor horn in, with my spiteful, venomous use of said equipment.

The author stands guilty. No warranty claim here, ladies and gentlemen. This is a case of pure driver abuse and shows complete negligence and the lack of car sympathy, clear and simple. Was the poor horn rehabilitated back into usefulness? Not by any chance. It got replaced by a louder, more intimidating tone—one that'll knock the sunglasses off the next blasé jaywalker. How telling indeed.



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NFA-DepEd launch food for school program in Tawi-Tawi

IN AN EFFORT TO keep school children in school, the National Food Authority and the Department of Education launched here the Food for School Program II recently.

The program shall benefit at least 2,555 Grade 1 and pre-elementary pupils in 24 pre-identified public schools in Tawi-Tawi.

NFA Tawi-Tawi provincial manager Israel Jadjuli said that the NFA has alloted a total of 1,175 bags of rice fortified with iron for the program's implementation for 23 school days for the month of March alone.

Under the program, the school children will be given a kilogram of rice for every day in school while their parents undergo values formation activities and productivity skills at the same time.

The program was conceived to answer the growing hunger and lack of proper nutrition among public elementary school children.

A survey conducted by the SWS showed that 21.46% of these children suffer from short-term hunger syndrome and undernutrition

For more info on NFA programs, the public may send concerns via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

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JUANITO ABAD CASTAÑEDA

of Imus, Cavite

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 84 on March 17, 2006.

His wife **AURORA RAMOS**; children (**Napoleon & Yolanda, Paulita, Oscar & Josefina, Imelda & Gary, Florita & Rolando, Antonio & Ma. Mercedes, Manuel & Veronidia, Angel & Susan, Crispin & Jane Marie, Lea & Dantel**), sister and brothers, in-laws, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mater Dolorosa Chapel, Gen. Satorre St., Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 25, 2006 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the same Chapel.

ATTY. RODOLFO R. MAGSARILI

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on March 16, 2006 at the age of 79,
at Methodist Hospital,
Los Angeles, California, USA.*

His children **VICTOR & STEPHANIE, RODOLFO JR. & MARILOU, ALBERTO & MARISE, MARIA CRISTINA & ERNESTO** and their CHILDREN together with his sister-in-law LOLITA B. QUIZON give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

ADELAIDA BACOSA ABRERA

of Aborlan & Cuyo, Palawan

Peacefully joined her Creator and her Loving husband Jose P. Abrera on March 20, 2006 at the age of 92.

She shall be missed by her loving children **Josefa, Alicia & Jose** (†), **Basilio & Marietta, Jo-Zayda & Edgar**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, Chapels 1 & 2.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
RAFAEL V. MARTINEZ	Chapel C-15, Q.C.	3/23/06; 12:30 P.M..	Paz Crematory
GERARDO F. SANTOS	Sta. Rita Parish Chapel, Philam Homes, Q.C.	03/23/06; 8:00 a.m.	Himlayang Pilipino

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

On the First Death Anniversary of the late

DR. SYLVIA C. VIDA

Who passed away on the 22nd of March 2005.

Her husband **Col. Antonio A. Vida** (Ret.) Children **Antonio, Jr.** and **Janice, Allan** and **Debbie, Albert** and **Margie, Arnold** and **Lourdes**; daughters **Annie** and **Ivan, Arlene** and **Alfredo, Astrid** and **Emil**; sisters and grandchildren **Lance, Samantha, Matthew, Cathy, Antonnette, Tony Boy, Allan Marco, Sabrina**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Mass will be offered at 4:00 p.m., March 22, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

Case No. LMRO 06-013

RE: Application for grant of a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate tramp service to any port in the Bicol Region/Philippines with the use of the vessel named MB "PRINCE CEDDIE-II" for the carriage of cargoes only pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 adn its Implementing Rules and Regulations

JIMSON C. CATINGGAN
Applicant,
x-----------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) filed by applicant on 20 March 2006 to operate the its vessel for the carriage of cargoes only, as follows:

For Tramp Operation

Name of Ship/s	Area of Operation	Service/s offered/to be offered
MB "PRINCE CEDDIE-II"	Burias, Masbate (homeport) to any port in the Bicol Region/Philippines.	For the carriage of various cargoes only.

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 10 April 2006, Monday at 2:30 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Maritime Industry Authority-V, 2nd Floor RCBC Bldg., Rizal St., Legazpi City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 20th day of March 2006, Legazpi City, Philippines.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD:

(Sgd.) LUCITA T. MADARANG
Regional Director

(PDI - March 22, 2006)

EU-TRTA LAUNCHING AT CUSTOMS ANNIVERSARY. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and customs officials unveiled the tar-pauline of Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) Programme/Customs component as part of its launching ceremony during the anniversary celebration of the Bureau of Customs. The European Union (EU) has donated some 1.5 million euro to boost customs trade facilitation and revenue collection. Shown from left are: Deputy Commissioners Bernardo Sales, Celso Templo and Gallant Soriano, DOF Sec. Margarito Teves, Customs Commissioner Napolen Morales, EU Head of Operations Section Frank Hess, Deputy Commissioners Alexander Arevalo and Reynaldo Nicolas.

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the System Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System, Quezon Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 3:00 p.m. on April 11, 2006 at the System Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO-SYS) for the selection of Internet Service Provider.

Total approved budget ceiling : P4,000,000.00

The pre-bid conference will be held on March 29, 2006 at 3:00 p.m., SPMO-SYS, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Bid documents at P4,500.00 per set are available starting March 24, 2006 at the SPMO-SYS. Contact person: Eduardo G. Sabat, Telefax No. 926-4919, email address: egsabat@up.edu.ph

The University of the Philippines System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) CYNTHIA GRACE C. GREGORIO
Chair, System Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – March 22 & 29, 2006)

NFA's "buy-back" program benefit North Cotabato farmers

AT LEAST 48,964 BAGS OF PALAY AMOUNTING TO P28.3 MILLION HAVE been sold to the National Food Authority by nine farmers' cooperatives, farmers' organizations and irrigators as of January this year under the agency's Farmers' Option to Buy Back (FOBB) program. The program allows individual farmers and farmers' organizations to deliver and sell their palay stocks at NFA-designated warehouses with the option to buy back the same stocks within six months or within one cropping season, giving them the opportunity to avail of their stocks as the need arises. The minimum deposit is 100 bags for individual farmers and 500 bags for farmers' organizations or cooperatives. NFA provincial manager Fernando Nuñez said that this scheme will enable palay farmers to maximize their earnings by withdrawing and selling their stocks when the buying price in the market is higher. Among the farmers' organizations that availed of the food agency's FOBB program are Maharlika Farmers MPC; Central Mlang Upland/Lowland FMPC; Brgy. Langkong Integrated FA Incorporated of Mlang, North Cotabato; Christ the King MPC; Lower Paatan Integrated Cooperative Incorporated of Kabacan, North Cotabato; Sta. Catalina MPC; Hervilla Memorial Community Irrigators System Incorporated of President Roxas, North Cotabato; North Cotabato Free Farmers Cooperative Incorporated (NCFFCI); and LIBRIS Div. 1-CATUBU Irrigators Association of Pigcawayan, North Cotabato. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their concerns via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
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MATRIMONIAL CAUSE NO.10022 OF 2005

BETWEEN
CIA, MELBA AROMIN Petitioner
and
MAGALIANES, JOSEPH LOPEZ Respondent

NOTICE

A DIVORCE PETITION HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST, MAGALIANES, JOSEPH LOPEZ of unknown address who may apply to the Family Court Registry, M2/F, Wanchai Tower, No.12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong for a copy of the Petition. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

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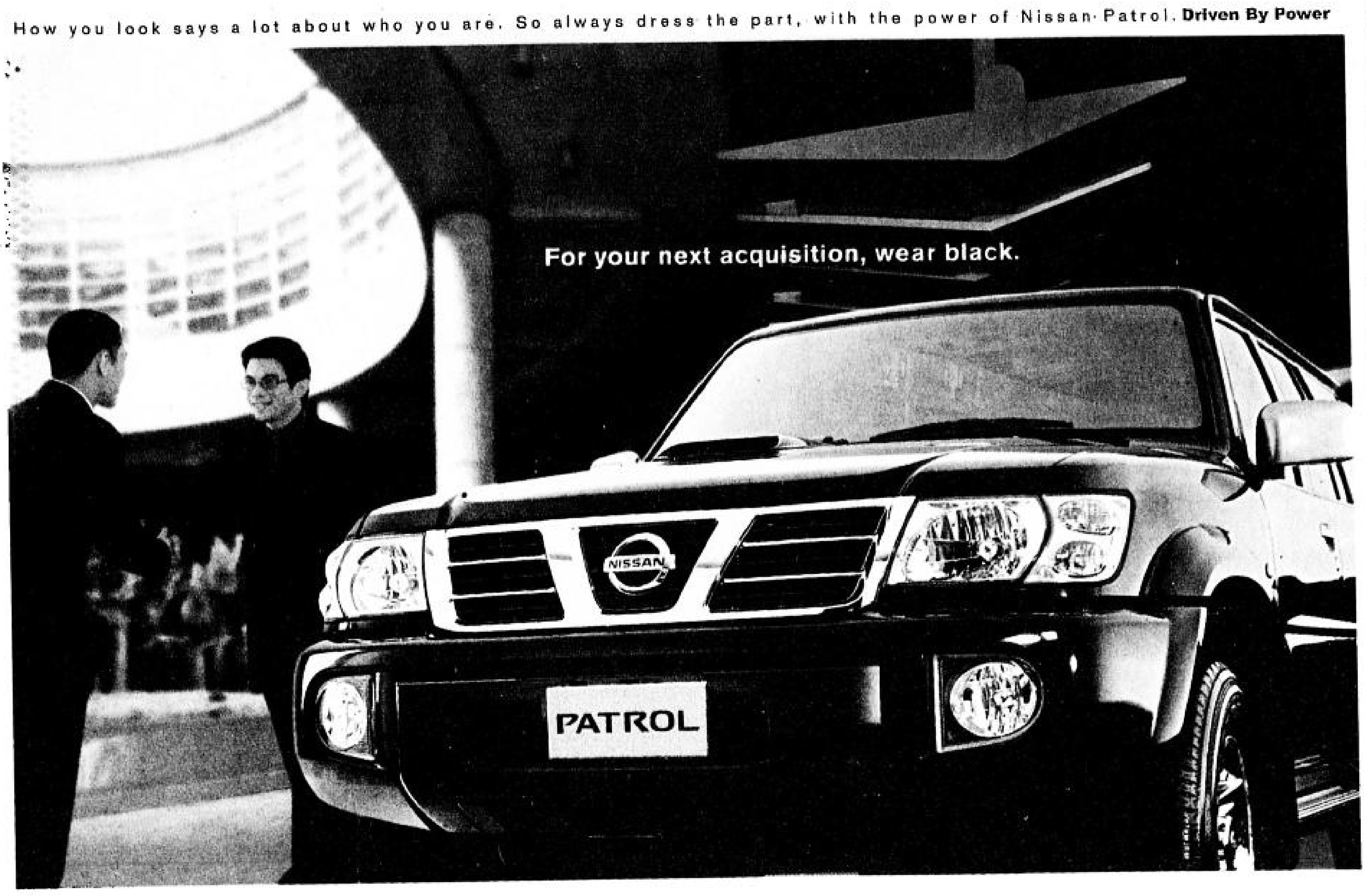

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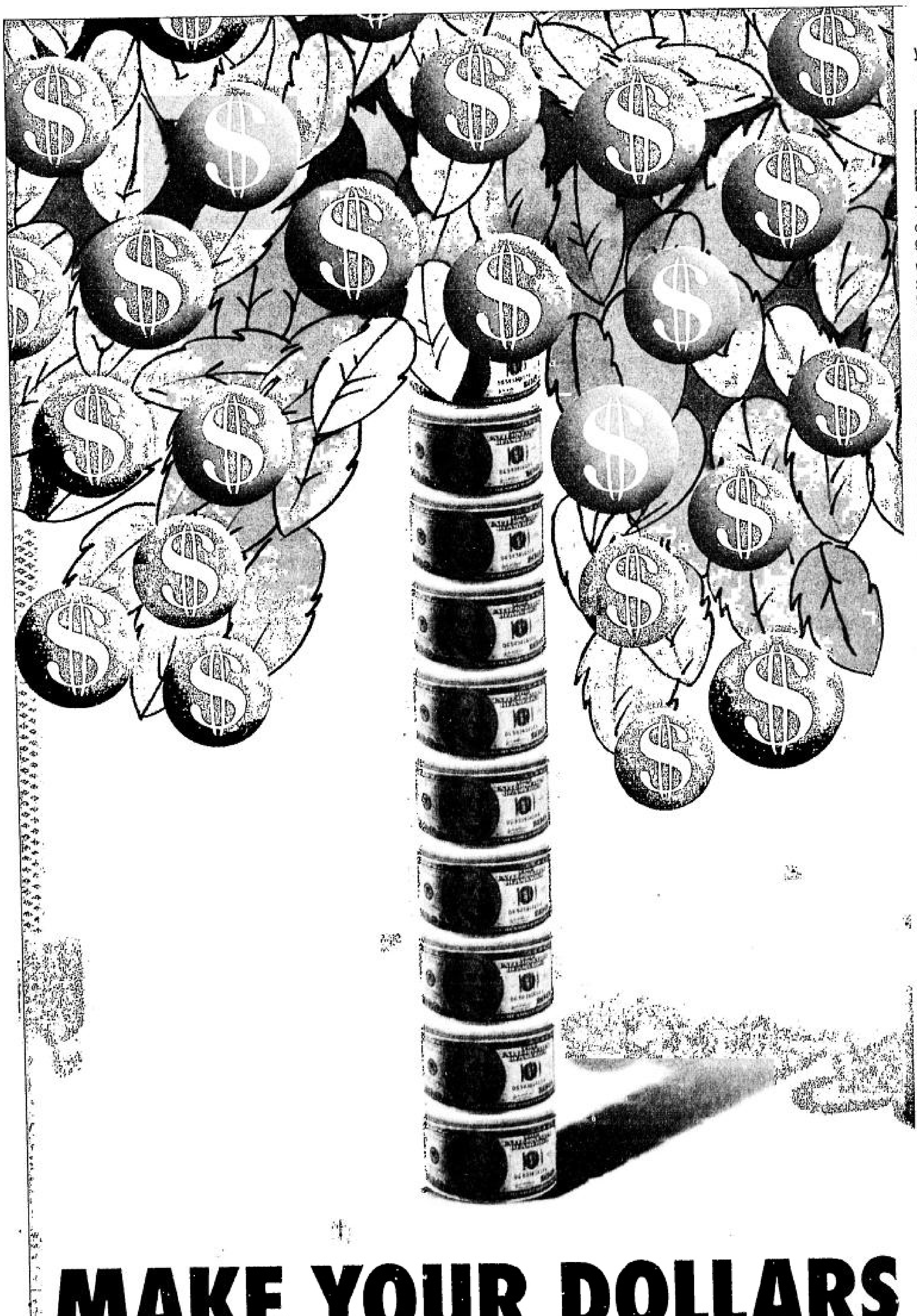

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LPG prices have been reduced four times since January, for a total cut of P2.24 a kilogram or P24.64 a cylinder.

Oil firms cut LPG prices

Reduction in int'l LPG prices cited

By Abigail L. Ho

LESS THAN A WEEK SINCE THE LAST PRICE rollback, oil firms have again slashed prices of their liquefied petroleum gas by P1 a kilogram.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. cut prices by the same level effective 12:01 am today.

Today's reduction brings the prices of Petron's Gasul to between P483 and P493 a cylinder, Shell's Shellane at between P495 and P510, and Total's TotalGaz at around P482.50.

As with the previous price reductions, the oil firms cited the drop in this month's international contract price for LPG, as well as competitive market forces, as the reasons behind the rollback.

These new suggested retail prices already include the 12-percent value-added tax.

The new retail price for Chevron's Caltex LPG was not available as of press time.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the international contract price of LPG shed almost $100 this month, falling to $530 per metric ton (MT) from an all-time high of $625.50 per MT in February.

In January, international prices soared to $582 a MT from $538 the month before.

Since the start of the year, LPG prices have risen four times by P2.17 per kilogram or P23.87 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

Prices have since been reduced four times for a total cut of P2.24 a kilogram or P24.64 a cylinder.

Rules on sale of LPG as car fuel readied

THE JOINT GOVERNMENT OIL INDUSTRY Technical Working Group, a collaboration between the government and the private sector, has completed the guidelines covering the sale of liquefied petroleum gas, chiefly used for cooking, as transport fuel.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. president and working group member Fernando Martinez said the new autogas standards were completed last week and would soon be included in the Philippine National Standards.

The new rules, Martinez said, were based on the Australian autogas standards.

These were not as stringent, however, to allow more players to participate.

Despite this, he said safety was a prime consideration in drafting the rules.

Under the new rules, oil firms who want to invest in the autogas business need not put up dedicated stations.

They can just place autogas dispensing pumps beside those dispensing gasoline, kerosene and diesel.

A certain distance, however, should be maintained to ensure safety as LPG is highly flammable.

Martinez said he expected the completion of the autogas standards to help jumpstart the industry.

He said that according to initial computations, motorists could slash as much as 25 percent from their fuel budgets by converting to autogas.

The Joint Government Oil Industry Technical Working Group is led by the Department of Energy, in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards and the Department of Interior and Local Government's Bureau of Fire Protection.

On the private sector side, participants include members of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association and the Philippine Petroleum Institute. *Abigail L. Ho*

LIFESTYLE 2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you!

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

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Class of 2006

The hard work has paid off. We are celebrating graduation season with special issues dedicated to new graduates. This week, we have essays penned by seniors of class 2006, fashion tips for those special graduation parties, a gift guide, and nuggets of wisdom from celebrities who know that there's a reason education comes before fame in the dictionary. Next week, we'll help you make those all-important after-graduation choices with stories on graduate studies, jumpstarting your career and stepping into the real world. Rock on, graduates!

ON KAT: Striped black-and-white dress with red trimming, P1,195. On Nikka: Polka-dot navy-blue dress with red trimming, P1,195. Both from Ensembles

Look lovely, young graduate!

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ocs Alvarez

ONCE AGAIN, it's the season of togas and diplomas, and a lot of serious celebratory partying.

Right after the graduation ceremonies, fresh grads and their family and friends often head out for dinner and drinks. Save yourself the trouble of going home to change clothes, and look for dressy but comfortable clothes that you can wear under your togas.

For girls lucky enough to not have restrictive dress codes (a few schools require their graduates to wear certain garments), the options are endless.

Try to pick dresses with short sleeves and lightweight fabrics in order to minimize sweating inside the hot, crowded auditoriums. Overly tight fabrics and too much lace will make you itch (you wouldn't want to keep squirming uncomfortably during the long speeches), so keep these to a minimum, too.

Again, comfort is key, so

LOOK/C3

DRESS with rhinestone straps, Vintage by Cinderella

AHHCHOO!-free

Comedienne Giselle Sanchez imparts helpful tips to AHHCHOO-free days.

AHHCHOO! Comedienne Giselle Sanchez awakes to endless and bothersome sneezing due to allergic rhinitis

Giselle Sanchez can't afford bothersome sneezing all day. Apart from being a highly sought-after corporate show host, her schedule is filled with endless television and movie appearances, singing engagements, and stand-up comedy performances. On top of it all, she takes on two more demanding roles—being a wife and a mother.

With so much to deal with, for Giselle, allergic rhinitis is no laughing matter.

Allergic rhinitis happens when there is swelling in the nose lining or nasal membrane caused by exposure to allergens such as house dust mites, pollen, animal dander, or pollution. Usually made of protein, allergens are substances that trigger the symptoms of allergic rhinitis such as sneezing, runny or clogged nose and itchy, watery, red eyes.

Some of Giselle's helpful tips:

Be wary of house dust. House dust mites are very tiny bugs that feed on skin humans shed everyday. When their droppings are inhaled by allergic persons, an allergic reaction can be triggered leading to symptoms of allergic rhinitis.

Pets must be kept clean and well-groomed. "I have a rottweiler named Frodo. Since I discovered I have allergic rhinitis, I have become more conscious to keep him neat and fresh.

Decipher allergic rhinitis from the common cold. Giselle narrates: "I didn't know the term allergic rhinitis until I had myself examined by a doctor. All this time I thought I just had persistent colds." Giselle would be sneezing regularly, especially upon waking up in the morning. The regular sneezing was so frequent that Giselle would finish up two boxes of tissue and that's just in the morning. People with allergic rhinitis such as Giselle may sneeze 30, 40 or even 50 times a day.

As a result, Giselle took medication for colds, which expectedly did not relieve her allergic rhinitis symptoms. Giselle shares, "My eyes continued to water and itch. I still had a runny nose, and my throat remained itchy and irritated," she shares. "The only time the symptoms stopped was when I drank an antihistamine—Benadryl AH (Diphenhydramine Hcl)."

Now, Giselle's disposition has vastly improved, allowing this funny lady to spread more laughter AHHCHOO-free!

AHHCHOO!-free: Comedienne Giselle Sanchez breezes through her day without nagging interrpution from allergic rhinitis.

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Sa Globe

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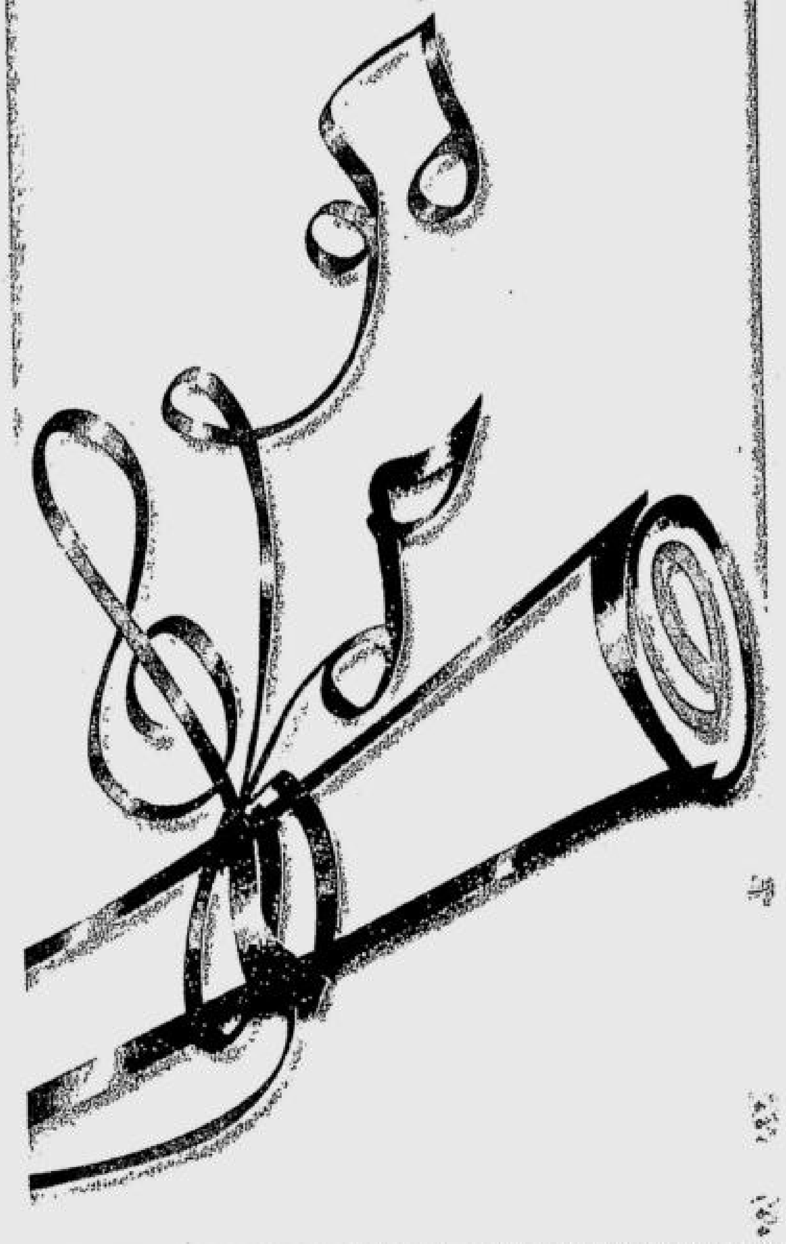

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Two years delayed but well worth it

[illegible] because I don't want to leave college

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

HAD EVERYTHING GONE according to plan, I would have graduated with a college diploma in 2004. By now, I would have a stable job, an ample amount of savings and a vast collection of very, very beautiful shoes. Well, none of that happened (except for the shoes part). Believe it or not, my graduating two years late made everything so much better. In fact, it's the best thing that has ever happened to me.

I have always believed that the choices we make define us and our futures. Transferring to another school was probably the best decision I've ever made in my whole life.

I transferred to the University of the Philippines two years into my Miriam College education of becoming a pre-school teacher. I decided to pursue my passion for writing and abandoned a possible practicality-driven life. So what if the pay is low in writing and that the Philippines is one of the most dangerous places to be a journalist? I don't care. It's what I love and long to do.

My transfer started a domino effect in my life. The good things started to come to the surface and more windows of opportunities opened. It was also about the same time I got accepted as a 2bU! correspondent, a dream I had always had since I was in high school. For the first time ever, everything I could possibly want is but an arm's length away from me.

Being immersed into the UP system was also something. Imagine being in the midst of unbelievable personalities every day, actual people who are making a difference in the lives of Filipinos everyday, activists calling for change and even occasional rock stars. Being taught by the movers and shakers of today's society leaves one wanting to make something of oneself as well.

I also got the chance to have the most exciting classmates ever. Some were amazingly, insanely smart, some amazing, some just plain insane. There were also plenty of sleepless nights, gazillion of zits and a couple of pounds added. It was a fun, fun ride. I never even noticed the years finally building up to graduation.

Call me crazy but I don't have plans of joining my batchmates in our graduation in April. I tell people I just don't want to do it or be part of it. Anyway, it's just pageantry. But deep down, I think I don't want to join the graduation rites because I don't want my college life to end. To attend the rites means I'm ending everything there.

But not attending the graduation rites doesn't mean I'm not grateful to all the people who have helped me get to where I am right now. I will forever be thankful to my parents, family and *Nanay* for supporting me in all of my endeavors and believing in me no matter what. To my very first journalism teacher, Mrs. Antonia Corpuz, thank you for introducing me to the world of writing. To all of my friends, classmates and professors at the College of Mass Communication in UP, thank you for teaching this soul about writing and everything about life.

Looking back, I can't imagine how I would have turned out had I chickened out from transferring. I could have just settled for what was in front of me, like many others who shirk the idea of extending. People often ask me what I could've been had I chosen practicality over passion. I guess we'll never know.

Of my six-year stay in college, I learned a lot. I have more than enough friends to last me this lifetime and the next. Most of all, I have all the experience and knowledge I need to face the world head on. Not too bad for following one's heart, right?

E-mail the author at s_a_l_e_e_m_a@yahoo.com

Left behind

If at first we don't succeed, we dust ourselves off and try again

By Jonathan Lansang
2bU! Contributor

WHEN I FIRST GOT THE news that I flunked out of my first college, I was devastated. I couldn't remember any instance in my adolescent life that had made me cry as much as I did that day.

What hurt most? It was nearly everything. Going to a new school, not seeing my friends, and the realization that I had wasted two years of my life by goofing off in school.

It was only recently that I realized one more thing I wouldn't be seeing anytime soon. Graduation.

It feels more than a little strange. While I'm back to hitting the books, the people I grew up with are at job interviews, with some actually scared that they're going to end up as bums the day after they get their diplomas. A year ago, they were worried about what to get for their girlfriends' birthdays. A year ago, the arrival of the latest computer games seemed much more important than responses from potential employers. *Tempus fugit*, indeed.

Being asked "Dude, so *kailan ka ga-graduate?*" leaves me with a dumb look on my face, since I can't come up with a reply. I do not want to be known as the "old guy who hasn't graduated yet," but that is ironically what I am.

Some of my new classmates haven't even had their debuts yet, for crying out loud! I get called *kuya* and *po* a million times a day, which doesn't make me feel any better about my age—I'm 22. I've tried lying about my age, but for some reason my beard and moustache seem to cause doubt about my claims of being 17.

On a less shallow note, though, I do consider the considerable amount of time and money spent on subjects which will never be credited and to knowledge I'd never be able to use. Now that I've passed my "phase" (what my friends call that period where even the brightest student gets lazy and bums around), I can't help but feel guilty about caring as little as I did.

A little more studying here, a bit more research there and maybe I'd be marching this month, too. But as the saying goes, it's no use crying over spilled milk.

New chapter

Thus begins the latest chapter in my life. Life goes on, right? I'm in a great new school, in a course I absolutely love. I've gotten my confidence back, and am working harder than ever. Reality check: I'm graduating late, but from my perspective, I've gotten that second chance that everyone wishes they had.

In my "old age," I've learned to look on the bright side of my predicament. If I didn't, I'd probably be insane, depressed, or both. For one thing, like some of my graduating friends have said, my not joining the work force yet is a bright side in itself. I screwed up my first course (or two... okay, so there was a third too, but I didn't screw it up, I just didn't like it). But as I said, I love my new course and I'm moving in the right direction toward my dream.

On top of that, my experiences stop me from making the same mistakes I did as a young teen stud. (Okay, fine, I was a geek and always will be.) Oh, but the ladies like us mature guys, don't they?

Seriously, though, thinking about my situation and being a late graduate have only gotten me more focused. While the old me would just accept his loser-ly fate, the new me has risen to the challenges of my rebirth.

I've made myself a promise not to sit around and sulk, and I intend to keep my word. If you have a similar story, why not do the same? Getting a degree beats bumming around any day.

Let me end with one more cliché. What happens to us guys who got left behind? If at first we don't succeed, we dust ourselves off and try again. Story finished, but, more importantly, lesson learned.

What's the best thing you've learned in college?

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THROW THOSE PRECONCEIVED NOtions out the window because whether you like it or not, many stars DID go to college—and learned a thing or two while they were at it.

Whether they graduated with honors or not, completed college or skipped it, here are some golden nuggets of wisdom that school taught your fave celebs.

"I learned how to learn. To take something that was previously alien and Greek to me and then to immerse myself in it until I became adept at it. Also, if you're going to take the time to do something, do it well. Mediocrity is for the weak." –Hans Montenegro

"That time management goes a long way. Especially when there are lots of paperwork to be read and made." –Bubbles Paraiso

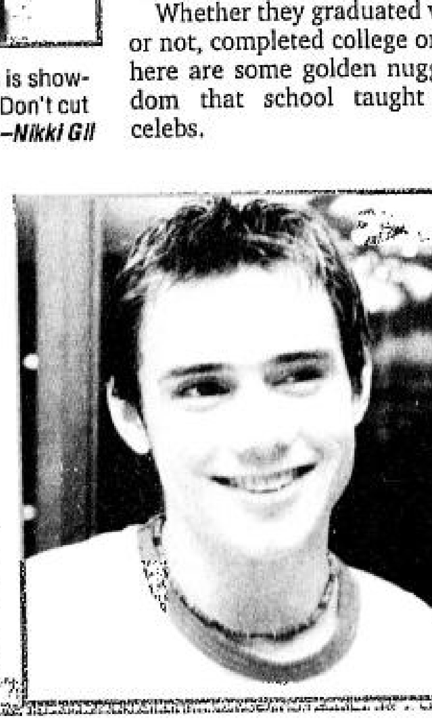
"If there is one thing I learned in college that I can apply in my life, it is 'there is always a solution to every problem.' You can substitute, transpose, cancel, multiply. You just have to try till you get the answer—college algebra." –Luke Jickain

"The best thing I learned [is] make the most out of the time you have with friends because when you or they start working, it will be completely different." –Mariel Rodriguez

"Meeting and handling different people." –Drew Arellano

"The best thing I've learned in college is how to cope with discrimination." – Ornusa Cadness

"'Eighty percent of success is showing up,' says Woody Allen. Don't cut class!" –Nikki Gil



"I've learned that you don't really have to be a graduate to be successful in life. Perseverance can help you reach your goals. Just like Lucio Tan, Kintanar and Bill Gates. Seriously, if I was just given a chance, I would really want to study and finish... and I will! I don't care how old I would be. No one is too old for education. To cut the long story short, I have no answer to that question." – Patrick Garcia

"Best thing I've learned in college is that rather than spend time doing something you don't enjoy, it's better to go out and experience life first, discover what it is you really enjoy then go back and study that." –Maike Evers

"You don't know everything so don't be ashamed to admit you're ignorant of something." – JM Rodriguez

"The most profound thing I learned during my college years came to me when a classmate of mine, during Lit recitation, mentioned a motto she applies to her life: 'God never gives you trials He knows you can't handle.' Since then, it has been the credo I live by." –Blanca Valerio

Look lovely, young graduate!

Party-ready graduation looks mean fresh makeup, comfortable frocks and dignified accessories

ON NIKKA: Apple-green tube dress with sash, P2,480. On Kat: Peach dress, P1,795. Both from Karimadon

From page C1

pair the dresses with pumps or strappy sandals you can wear the whole day. No use wearing those killer stilettos. You'll only end up tripping onstage.

Accessories shouldn't be too loud, so wear simple necklaces and earrings that are suitable for the dignity of the occasion. In other words, that dog collar choker will not do, unless you want to make a major statement as the class rebel.

Clean and fresh

Makeup should also be kept clean and fresh during the ceremony. Smoky eyes and caked-on foundation aren't appropriate. Aside from running the risk of smearing your mascara and eye shadow if you start crying, the look required for smoky eyes (pale lips and barely there blush) might make you look washed out in your photos.

Start with the basics: a clean base, brightening eye shadow and liner, curled lashes and mascara, blush and lip gloss. Since you won't have too many opportunities to touch-up during the ceremony, fix your makeup to make it last through all the photo ops after the commencement activities.

Leave the glitter at home for the meantime, as you'll just look oily in your photos. A light matte foundation looks more polished and minimizes the need to touch up.

Try Maybelline Dream Matte, a mousse foundation that doesn't look or feel heavy, or Shu Uemura Depsea Perfect, a foundation that contains good-for-your-skin deep sea water. Also, L'Oreal's wide range of shades in its True Match foundation line will help you avoid the "floating face" look in your photos.

Stick to pastel or neutral shimmer for your eye area (avoid the heavily contoured purple/brown eye makeup, unless you want to be mistaken for your grandma) and don't forget to curl your lashes. Maybelline's Urban Orchid collection has pretty lilac and coral hues in its eye shadow palettes, perfect for a soft, feminine look.

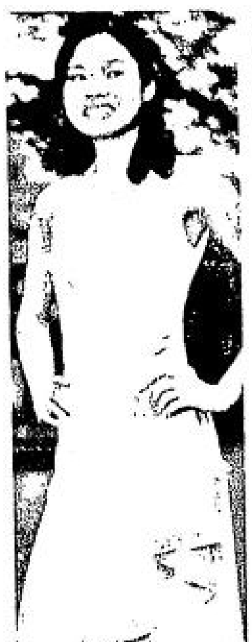
Since graduation is a time for emotional moments, you can either skip the mascara or go with a waterproof one. Awake's roll curl mascara is perfect because it doesn't have bristles on its wand (and lets you get as close to the lash line as possible) and

LOOK/ C4

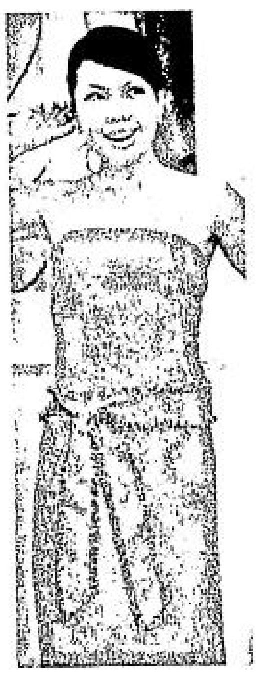
MIDNIGHT-BLUE pleated dress with beaded neckline, P1,750, Karimadon

MAKEUP TATIN YANG (DRESSES)
AND BARBI CHAN (MAYBELLINE)
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS PAT DY
MODELS MARLA CABANBAN,
NIKKA CONSUNJI,
GEOLETTE ESGUERRA
AND KAT VILLANUEVA
SPECIAL THANKS
TO ANGELIQUE VILLARAZA,
DIA LACABA AND GAY LAO

CHECKERED dress with tulle trim, P1,195, Ensembles



PINK jersey dress, P1,295, Karimadon



BLUE twill tube dress, P1,195, Ensembles

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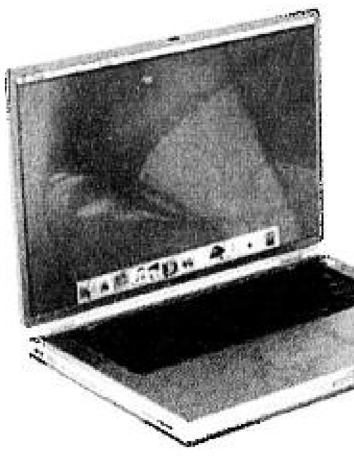
Presents perfect

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

GRADUATION GIFTS, IN general, should be for keeps. That's why jewelry is such a popular gift at this time of year. A piece of jewelry lasts forever, and its value often appreciates as the years go by.

However, not everyone appreciates jewelry. Some would much rather have practical things.

Here are some gift options for your new graduate.



IDEAL for presentation to new bosses

Laptop

If he/she doesn't have one yet, now might be the best time to get one. A laptop is perfect for making presentations to their scary new bosses once they start working, and it's even better if they're about to enter college, where term papers seem to have no end.

Summer trip

For many soon-to-be members of the rat race, the last summer before their entry into the working force is their last time to be wild and carefree. Reward them with a trip to a place they've always wanted to go to—Europe if you have the bucks, an interesting trip around the country if you have a more modest budget. Travel is best experienced while young, so allow your fresh graduate to see the world with rose-colored glasses.

Scrapbook

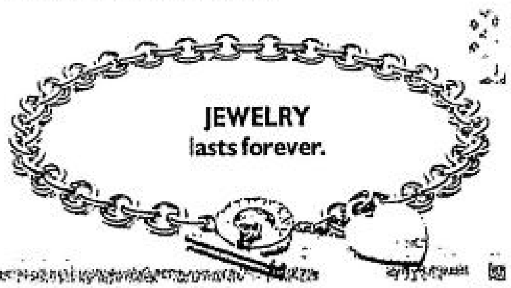
This is a gift best given from one graduating friend to another. Compile photos of your favorite moments in school (don't forget to keep copies for yourself!) and arrange them in a scrapbook with other sentimental mementos, such as tickets and dried flowers. Sneak in a funny note or two, and scribble comments beside the photos to make the scrapbook more enjoyable.

Financial investments

While many young graduates might not appreciate "boring" things such as stocks and other financially related items, these are the gifts that actually matter, compared to the iPod that could get outdated in a few months. It's ensuring them of a sound future, after all. Ask financial advisers for help. They can help determine what might be best for your young graduate.

Small practical items

If you're not that close to the graduate, or if you're saving money, get the person a practical item or two. This is especially applicable if he or she is going to dorm or live far away. Domestic stuff like steam irons, microwaves, tape recorders and rice cookers may get you a surprised look or two from the recipient, but they'll definitely end up using it more than a diamond-studded watch.



JEWELRY lasts forever.

Jewelry

Still, nothing beats the appeal of a robin's-egg-blue jewelry box from Tiffany's, so if you're sentimental and if the graduate likes sparkling stuff, then by all means, jewelry's a good pick. Choose something that the recipient will wear, so don't impose your taste on him or her. Graduation is also a good time to pass on family heirlooms, so if you have any antique pieces to hand down, go for it.

Gifts are always given at the discretion of the giver. However, graduation is always a good time to give presents that mean something and would amount to something useful or memorable, so choose well for your young graduate.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Look lovely. . .

From page C3

will not get out unless you use heavy-duty makeup remover.

Blush should brighten your face subtly, so again, skip the contouring and sweep on some color on the apples of your cheeks. L'Oreal Blush Delice in Fresh Papaya and Pink Grapefruit are universally flattering colors that make you look like you glow from within.

Finish off your look with lipstick or lip gloss (Maybelline Fruity Jelly and Lancôme Juicy Tubes last long, aren't sticky, and come in great colors). Now you're all set for your graduation, from the ceremony to the party.

FRESH, clean makeup is the way to go on graduation day.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

MAYBELLINE'S Urban Orchid collection includes eye shadow, blush, lipstick and foundation.

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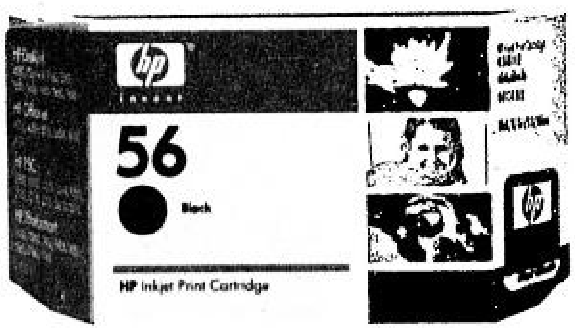

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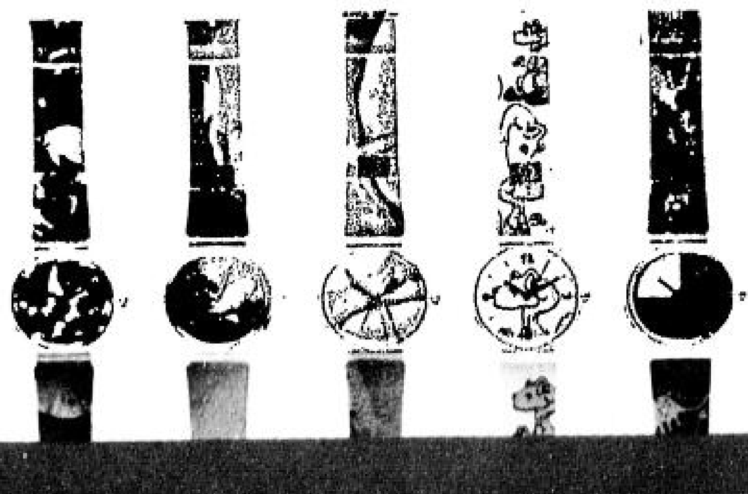

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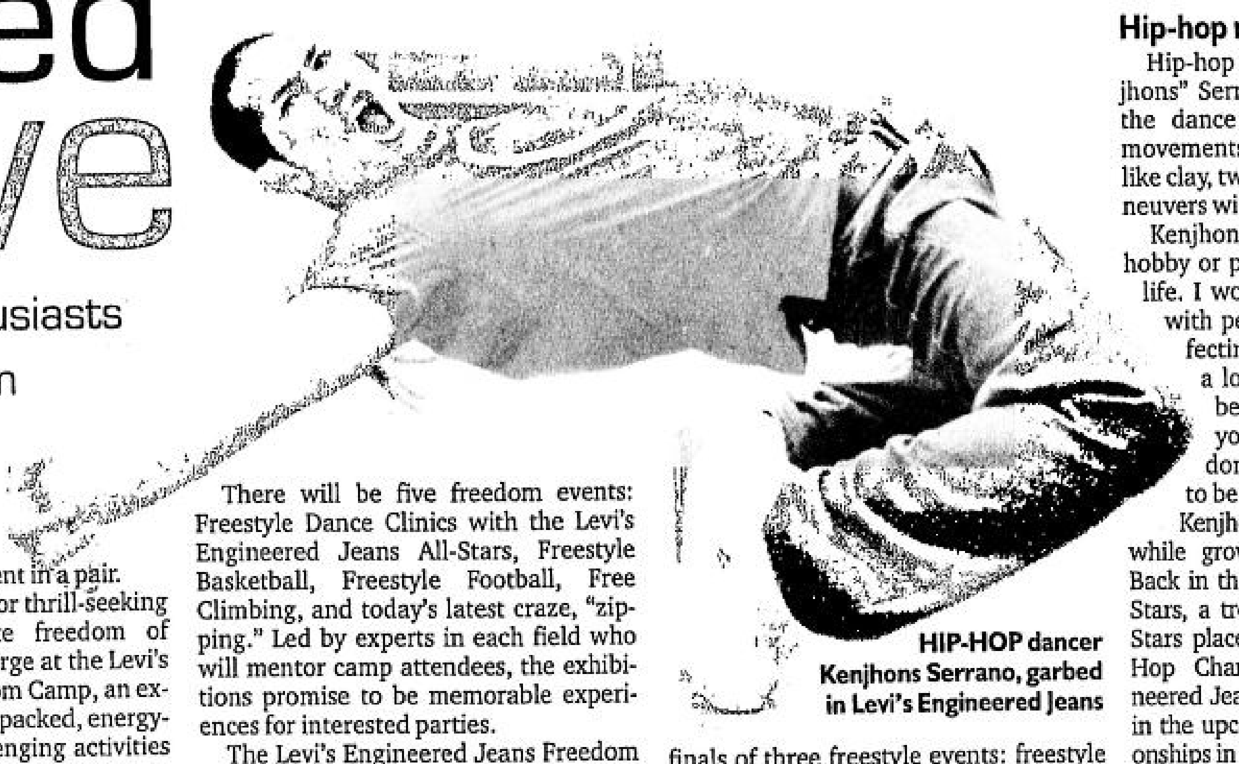
Engineered to move

What better way for thrill-seeking enthusiasts to celebrate freedom of movement than to converge at the Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp?



HIP-HOP dancer Kenjhons Serrano, garbed in Levi's Engineered Jeans

JEANS PIONEER LEVI'S understands your desire to move: effortlessly, freely, and without restrictions.

The result is yet another jeans innovation, a denim pair designed for optimum flexibility and ease. Aptly called Levi's Engineered Jeans, technology and style come together seamlessly to provide utmost freedom of movement in a pair.

And what better way for thrill-seeking enthusiasts to celebrate freedom of movement than to converge at the Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp, an exciting two days of action-packed, energy-filled, and fun but challenging activities on April 1 and 2 at Market! Market!, Fort Bonifacio.

There will be five freedom events: Freestyle Dance Clinics with the Levi's Engineered Jeans All-Stars, Freestyle Basketball, Freestyle Football, Free Climbing, and today's latest craze, "zipping." Led by experts in each field who will mentor camp attendees, the exhibitions promise to be memorable experiences for interested parties.

The Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp will be capped off with a showdown among the best who qualify for the finals of three freestyle events: freestyle dance, freestyle basketball and football. Individual winners can bag P20,000 while group winners get P100,000.

In the thick of all the action will be five hip celebrities who will share their passion and fascination for these sports, imparting expert tips and tricks to Levi's Freedom Campers.

Hip-hop marvel

Hip-hop and R&B artist Kenneth "Kenjhons" Serrano is a marvel to watch on the dance floor. The intensity of his movements is breathtaking. He bends like clay, twists like a tootsie roll, and maneuvers with strength and precision.

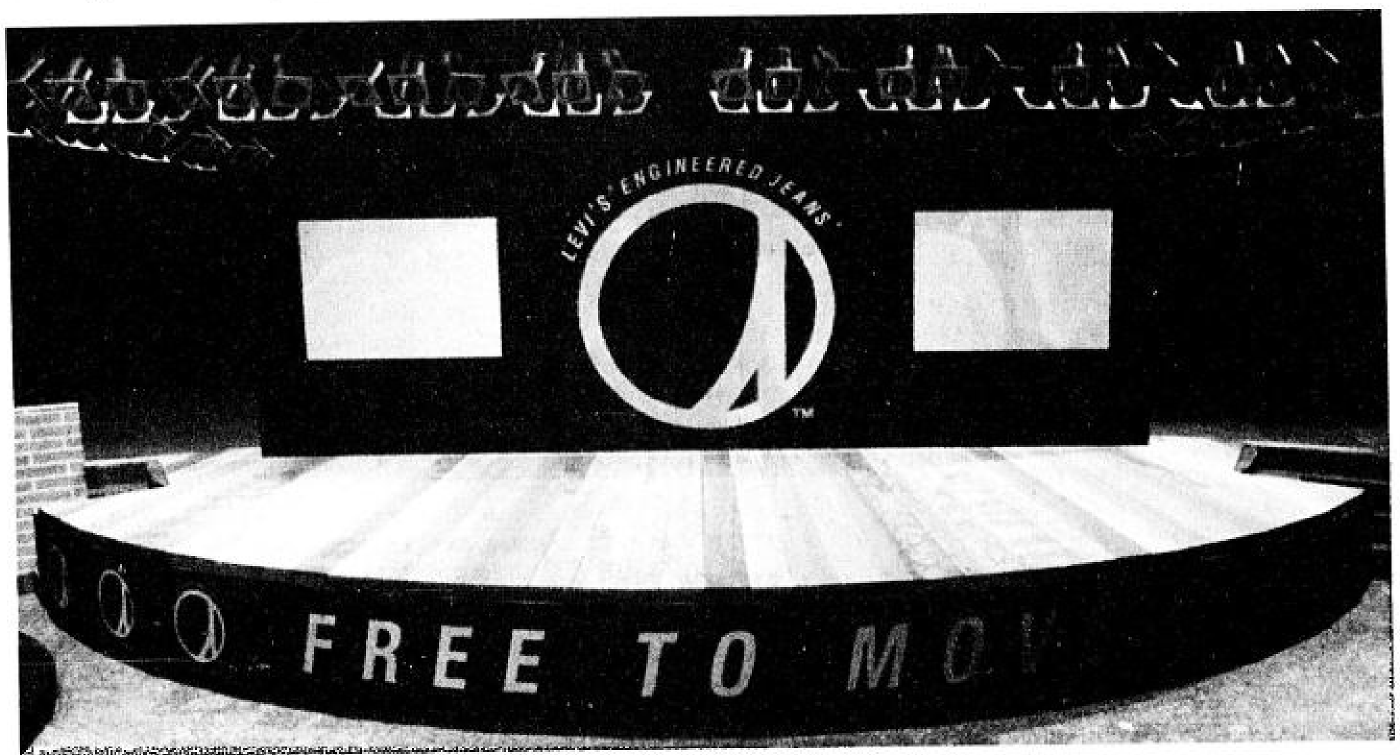
Kenjhons says, "Dancing isn't just a hobby or pastime for me. Dancing is my life. I work hard to execute each step with perfect timing and artistry. Perfecting each routine means having a lot of faith and just feeling the beat of the music. Believe that you can do anything! And if you don't enjoy it, you're never going to be good at it."

Kenjhons began grooving at age 14 while growing up in Toronto, Canada. Back in the Philippines, he joined the All Stars, a troop of hip-hop enthusiasts. All Stars placed sixth in the last World Hip-Hop Championships. The Levi's Engineered Jeans All Stars will again compete in the upcoming World Hip-Hop Championships in Los Angeles this year.

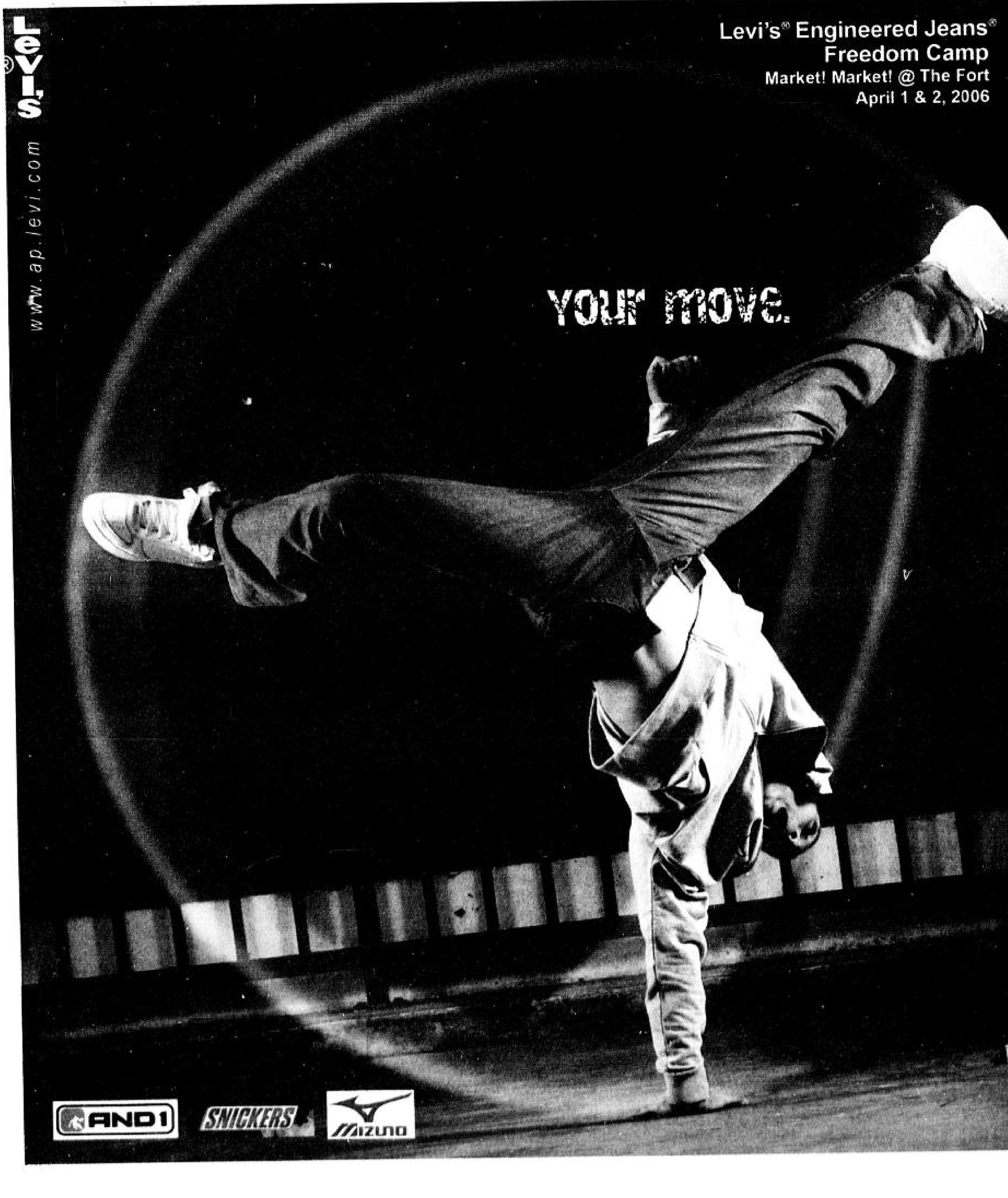
Zip whiz

Sharing Kenjhons' grace and fluidity in movement is zipping aficionado Lorraine Lapuz.

ENGINEERED/D2



LAYOUT of the forthcoming Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp at the Activity Center in Market! Market!



Levi's® Engineered Jeans® Freedom Camp
Market! Market! @ The Fort
April 1 & 2, 2006

LEARN & EXPERIENCE: Freestyle Dance • Freestyle Basketball • Freestyle Football • Free Climbing • Zipping

How to Join the Camp:

1) Open to all males and females, 15-25 years old.

2) Grab an entry form from the following Levi's® stores: Levi's® Glorietta, Rockwell, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, SM Megamall A, Sta. Lucia East, Gateway, Shangri-La Plaza, Market! Market!, Eastwood Cybermall, and Robinson's Galleria, Ermita and Metro East. To get the entry form by e-mail, text **REG LEJ your e-mail address** and send to **0917-856-6323**.

3) Completely fill out the form and drop in any Levi's® Freedom Camp drop boxes located in all participating Levi's® Stores listed above on or before March 24, 2006 or fax to 894-5425.

4) A person can participate in any or all of the following activities at the camp: a) Freestyle Dancing; b) Freestyle Basketball; c) Freestyle Football; d) Zipping; e) Free Climbing

5) Participation is free of charge. However, limited slots are available for each activity per camp day so pre-registration is required.

6) To confirm your participation and schedule in the camp, please call the Levi's® Freedom Camp Hotline at 894-5425 from March 27-30, 2006, 10 AM till 4 PM.

7) Registration time for camp day 1 (April 1, 2006) is from 10 AM-12 NN. Camp proper starts at 1 PM. Registration time for camp day 2 (April 2, 2006) is from 10 AM-11 AM. Camp proper starts at 11 AM.

How to Join the Competition:

1) Open to all males and females, 15-25 years old.

2) Grab an entry form from the following Levi's® stores: Levi's® Glorietta, Rockwell, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, SM Megamall A, Sta. Lucia East, Gateway, Shangri-La Plaza, Market! Market!, Eastwood Cybermall and Robinson's Galleria, Ermita and Metro East. To get the entry form by e-mail, text **REG LEJ your e-mail address** and send to **0917-856-6323**.

3) Completely fill out the form and drop in any Levi's® Freedom Camp drop boxes located in all participating Levi's® Stores listed above on or before March 24, 2006 or fax to 894-5425.

4) Qualifying rounds will be on April 1, 2006 at 6 PM and April 2, 2006 at 5 PM. Individuals who qualify will advance to the final round on April 2, 2006.

5) Maximum participants: Freestyle Basketball 50 individuals; Freestyle Football 40 individuals; Freestyle Dance-off 40 individuals.

6) Prizes at stake are the following per competition:

Individual Events	Prizes per Event
Freestyle Basketball	P20,000 (1st), P10,000 (2nd), P5,000 (3rd). All 1st Prize Winners will receive Levi's® Engineered Jeans™ Gift Cheque, Levi's® eyewear and a Levi's® watch
Freestyle Football	
Freestyle Dance	

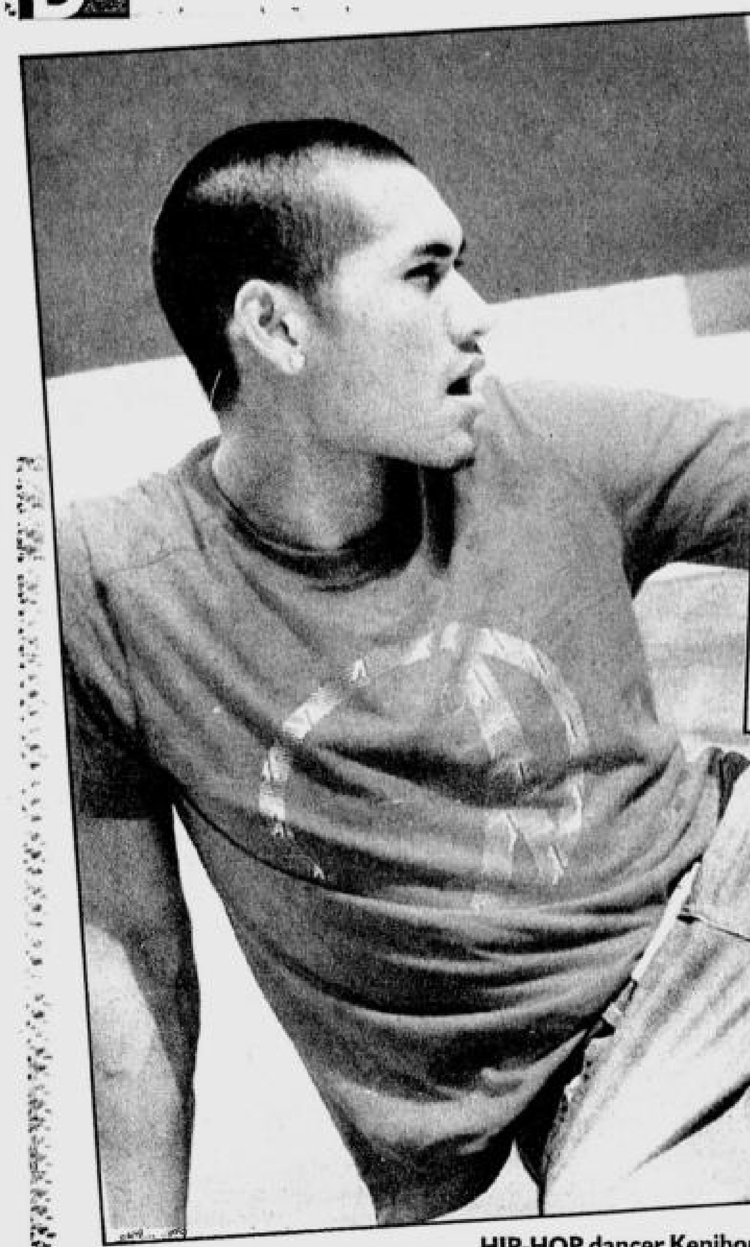
7) To confirm your participation and schedule in the competition, please call the Levi's® Freedom Camp Hotline at 894-5425 from March 27-30, 2006, 10 PM til 4 PM.

8) All competing individuals must participate in at least one camp activity in order to be part of the qualifying round.

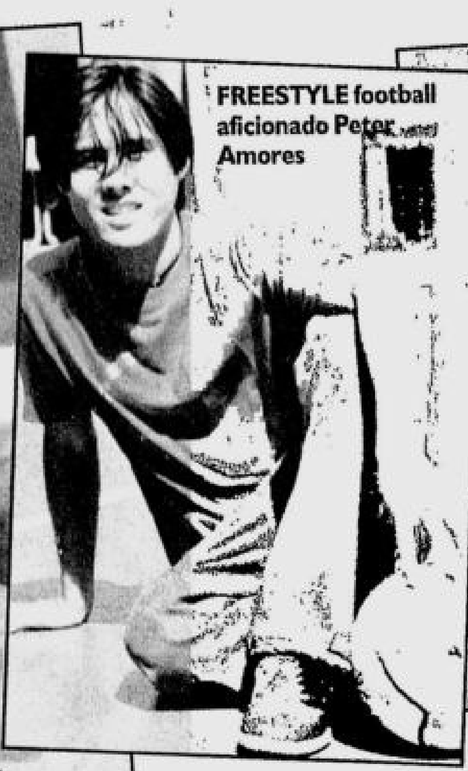
It is a pre-requisite that all participants and competing individuals be in Levi's© jeans. No shorts and slippers allowed. Prizes in store for those in the best Levi's© gear.

For more information please call the Levi's© Freedom Camp Hotline at 894-5425 from Mondays thru Fridays, 10 AM till 4 PM, or log on to **www.ap.levi.com**.

Levi's LEVI'S ENGINEERED JEANS FREEDOM CAMP



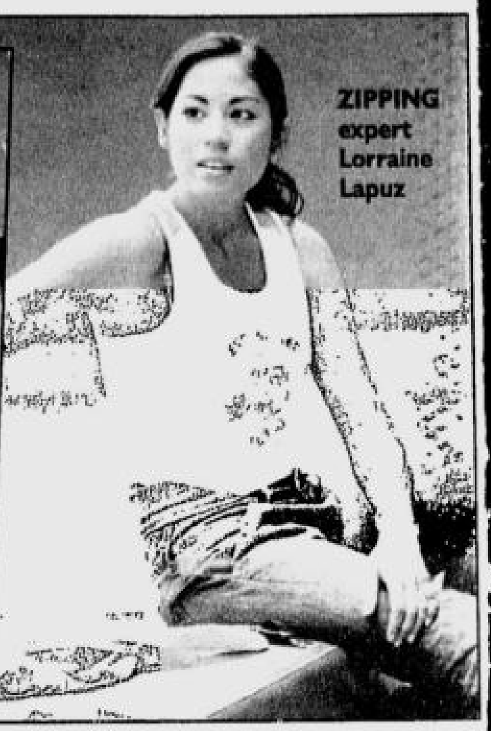
HIP-HOP dancer Kenjhons Serrano



FREESTYLE football aficionado Peter Amores

WALL climber Jeena Lopez

FREESTYLE basketball enthusiast Dedick Manansala



ZIPPING expert Lorraine Lapuz

Engineered...

From page D1

"Zipping was inspired by the Maori tribe of New Zealand," says Lorraine. "They have a dance known as Poi, which means ball on a cord." The tribe used rocks and flung these with the aid of a rope to train their warriors and for the women to attract a partner.

Lorraine uses a pair of zips—pieces of string with a little bit of weight combined with large splashes of color. She spins it around, for a routine that showcases her focus and perfect hand-and-eye coordination.

"Everyone can learn zipping with ease. Plus, there's no fussy outfit required. I put on my most comfortable Levi's Engineered Jeans, and I'm good to go!"

Athlete on the rise

For the ultra-athletic Jeena Lopez, climbing every mountain is not just a cliché, but a way of life.

"To be honest, I'm afraid of heights. I'm claustrophobic as well," she says. Conquering these fears was Jeena's main motivation for getting into Free Climbing. Now, apart from climbing, Jeena has also engaged in wreck and cave diving, sky diving, and bungee jumping.

Since she started climbing in 1995, Jeena has conquered heights everywhere, scaling rock faces in Montalban, Rizal, all the way to Yosemite Park in California.

"Extreme sports entails a lot of courage. In return, it motivates you to push your limits," says Jeena, mother to a 4-year-old boy and year-old twin girls, and wife to her equally athletic husband, Ernie Lopez.

Goal!

Football is arguably the most popular sport in the world, and Peter Amores is one of its staunchest supporters, ever since he made his first kick-off as a third grader at

Back with a new beat

The new collection combines street elements with the signature ergonomic features of the Levi's Engineered Jeans

THE MUCH-CELEBRATED Levi's Engineered Jeans collection is making a comeback.

Inspired by the active lifestyle and passionate self-expression of youth in sports, dance, music and sports, the new collection combines street elements with the signature ergonomic features of the new Levi's Engineered Jeans.

"We have created the new Levi's Engineered Jeans collection for the youth with the aptitude to move and the attitude to groove. Influenced by contemporary street culture and the American hip-hop movement, we have incorporated into the Levi's Engineered Jeans the unique flavor of sports inspired by colors, fabrics, and details appropriate for the free-spirited and the fun nature of the young," says Levi's brand leader Ronnie Celestial.

The design-patented ergonomic denim retains its signature "twisted" side seams for maximum freedom in movement. Panels of black stretch fabric have been inserted into the jeans from the hips and knees to create gathers for even greater comfort, movement and individual fit.

Inspired by athletic track pants, a textured Levi's Engineered Jeans jacquard tape runs along the inside and outside of the waistband. Back pockets have also been enlarged, dropped and skewed for easier access, and the iconic Levi's Arcuate is painted on with black silicon ink.

The "running leg" logo signature of Levi's Engineered Jeans is prominently imprinted on the shank button, belt loop rivets and front-pocket zips.

With a focus on comfort and following the contours of the body for an overall sexy appeal, Levi's designers have created an array of separates to complete the ready-to-groove, street-smart look. Guys enjoy a choice of hooded and pullover jackets, terry pullovers and cotton jerseys, while girls can flaunt their stuff and style in sexy cropped, zip-front or hooded jackets, cotton-span jersey pullovers and cuffed pants.

The Levi's Engineered Jeans for both men and women come in the following fits: straight, comfort, skinny and boot-cut. Finishes for men come in midnite, storm and dirty worn. For women, it's midnite and storm.

The Levi's Engineered mini skirt with pleat and mini skirt with fabric inserts come in both knee-length and mini fits. Other Levi's Engineered Jeans products are sporty stylish crop pants, tight crop pants and hot pants with fabric inserts.

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Be part of the Levi's ® Mailing List
(Fill out the form below and submit at the registration booth during the Levi's ® Engineered Jeans ® Freedom Camp)

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____
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EMAIL: ____________

Levi's Engineered Jeans FREEDOM CAMP

Market! Market! @The Fort
April 1 & 2, 2006

LEARN & EXPERIENCE:
- Freestyle Dance
- Freestyle Basketball
- Freestyle Football
- Free Climbing
- Zipping

How to Join the Camp

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All 1st Prize Winn receive:
a) Levi's ® Engin Jeans™ Gift Che
b) Levi's ® eyew
c) Levi's ® watch

Levi's Engineered Jeans FREEDOM CAMP

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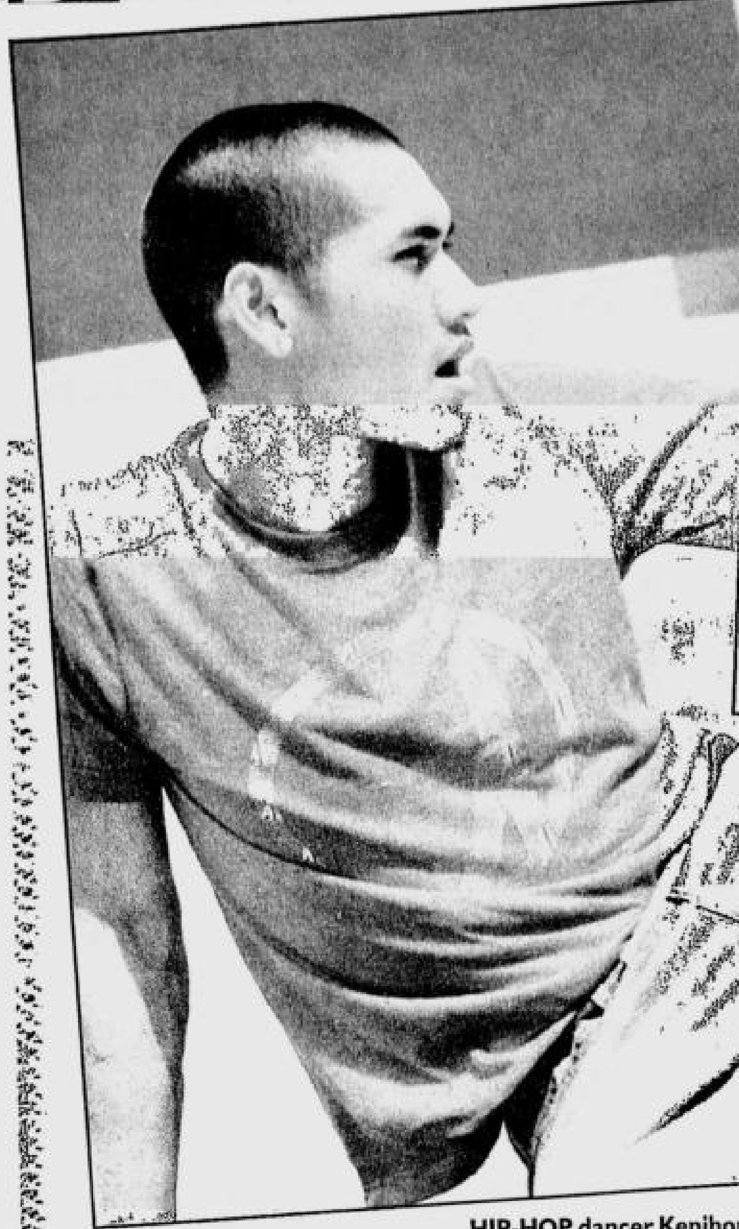
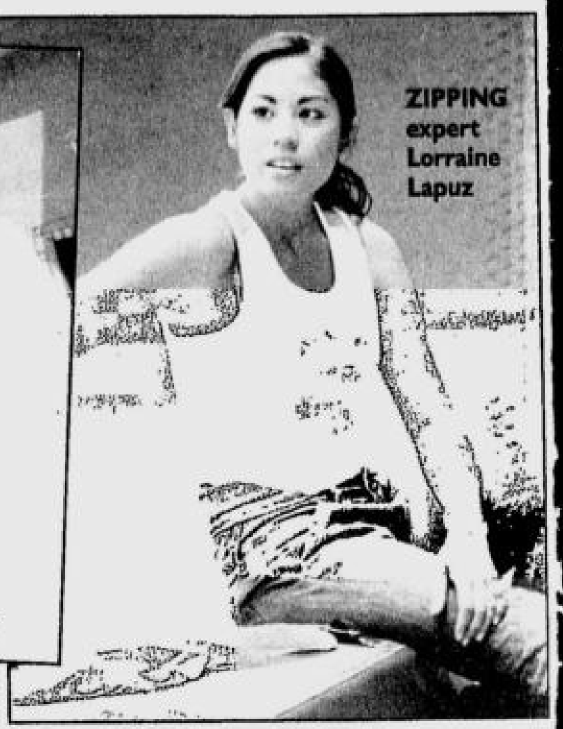


HIP-HOP dancer Kenjhons Serrano

FREESTYLE football aficionado Peter Amores

WALL climber Jeena Lopez

FREESTYLE basketball enthusiast Dedick Manansala



ZIPPING expert Lorraine Lapuz

Engineered...

From page D1

"Zipping was inspired by the Maori tribe of New Zealand," says Lorraine. "They have a dance known as Poi, which means ball on a cord." The tribe used rocks and flung these with the aid of a rope to train their warriors and for the women to attract a partner.

Lorraine uses a pair of zips—pieces of string with a little bit of weight combined with large splashes of color. She spins it around, for a routine that showcases her focus and perfect hand-and-eye coordination.

"Everyone can learn zipping with ease. Plus, there's no fussy outfit required. I put on my most comfortable Levi's Engineered Jeans, and I'm good to go!"

Athlete on the rise

For the ultra-athletic Jeena Lopez, climbing every mountain is not just a cliché, but a way of life.

"To be honest, I'm afraid of heights. I'm claustrophobic as well," she says. Conquering these fears was Jeena's main motivation for getting into Free Climbing. Now, apart from climbing, Jeena has also engaged in wreck and cave diving, sky diving, and bungee jumping.

Since she started climbing in 1995, Jeena has conquered heights everywhere, scaling rock faces in Montalban, Rizal, all the way to Yosemite Park in California.

"Extreme sports entails a lot of courage. In return, it motivates you to push your limits," says Jeena, mother to a 4-year-old boy and year-old twin girls, and wife to her equally athletic husband, Ernie Lopez.

Goal!

Football is arguably the most popular sport in the world, and Peter Amores is one of its staunchest supporters, ever since he made his first kick-off as a third grader at

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Back with a new beat

The new collection combines street elements with the signature ergonomic features of the Levi's Engineered Jeans

THE MUCH-CELEBRATED Levi's Engineered Jeans collection is making a comeback.

Inspired by the active lifestyle and passionate self-expression of youth in sports, dance, music and sports, the new collection combines street elements with the signature ergonomic features of the new Levi's Engineered Jeans.

"We have created the new Levi's Engineered Jeans collection for the youth with the aptitude to move and the attitude to groove. Influenced by contemporary street culture and the American hip-hop movement, we have incorporated into the Levi's Engineered Jeans the unique flavor of sports inspired by colors, fabrics, and details appropriate for the free-spirited and the fun nature of the young," says Levi's brand leader Ronnie Celestial.

The design-patented ergonomic denim retains its signature "twisted" side seams for maximum freedom in movement. Panels of black stretch fabric have been inserted into the jeans from the hips and knees to create gathers for even greater comfort, movement and individual fit.

Inspired by athletic track pants, a textured Levi's Engineered Jeans jacquard tape runs along the inside and outside of the waistband. Back pockets have also been enlarged, dropped and skewed for easier access, and the iconic Levi's Arcuate is painted on with black silicon ink.

The "running leg" logo signature of Levi's Engineered Jeans is prominently imprinted on the shank button, belt loop rivets and front-pocket zips.

With a focus on comfort and following the contours of the body for an overall sexy appeal, Levi's designers have created an array of separates to complete the ready-to-groove, street-smart look. Guys enjoy a choice of hooded and pullover jackets, terry pullovers and cotton jerseys, while girls can flaunt their stuff and style in sexy cropped, zip-front or hooded jackets, cotton-span jersey pullovers and cuffed pants.

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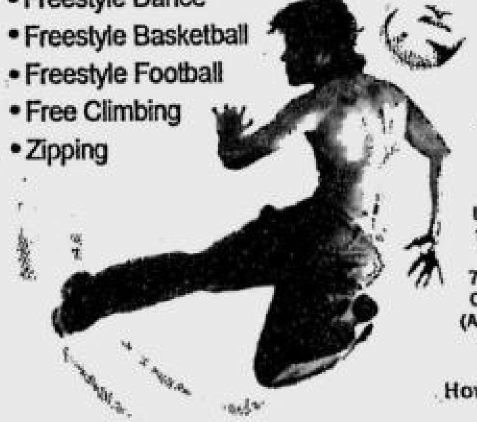

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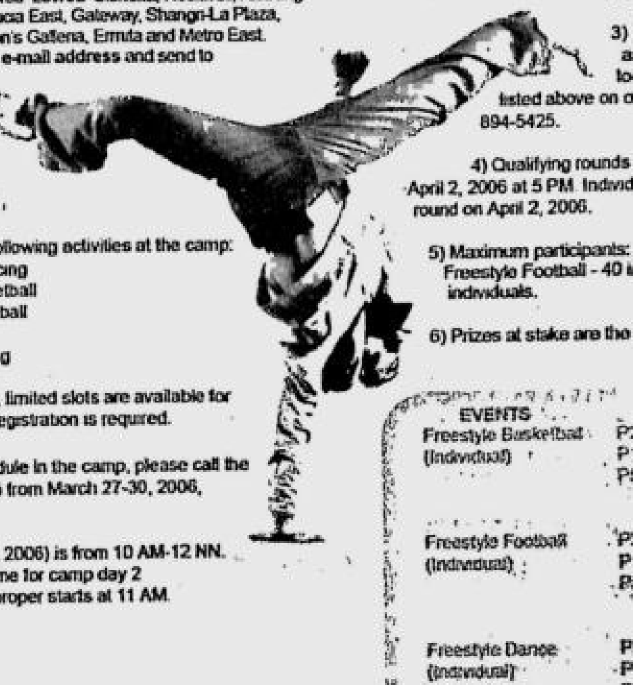

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Jeans® [illegible]
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c) Levi's ® [illegible]

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CATCH the Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp on April 1-2.

Colegio de San Agustin.

And with football's latest incarnation—freestyle football—Peter is confident the sport will be attracting more fans. "Freestyle football started in Brazil and is similar to dancing with the ball," he explains. "It's all about being creative and handling the ball with flair."

Unlike regular football, freestyle football can be played on the streets, with each team having three players each. Two road cones serve as goal posts. There are no rules, no referees—just friendly competition and heart-pumping fun. Freestyle football is best played with samba melodies, hip-hop beats, or any kind of music that gets a person's creativity flowing.

One of Peter's favorite tricks is the Cross Over. In this maneuver, Peter kicks the ball in the air with his right foot. After his left leg crosses over the airborne ball, his right foot tries to kick the ball again before it hits the ground. Peter also enjoys the Back Trap, where he leans forward, balances the ball at the back of his neck, and tries to take of his shirt without losing control of the ball.

The sport does not require uniforms. In fact, Levi's Engineered Jeans is Peter's preferred freestyle football gear. "Just like the sport, Levi's Engineered Jeans is hip and is designed for street action."

Street ball

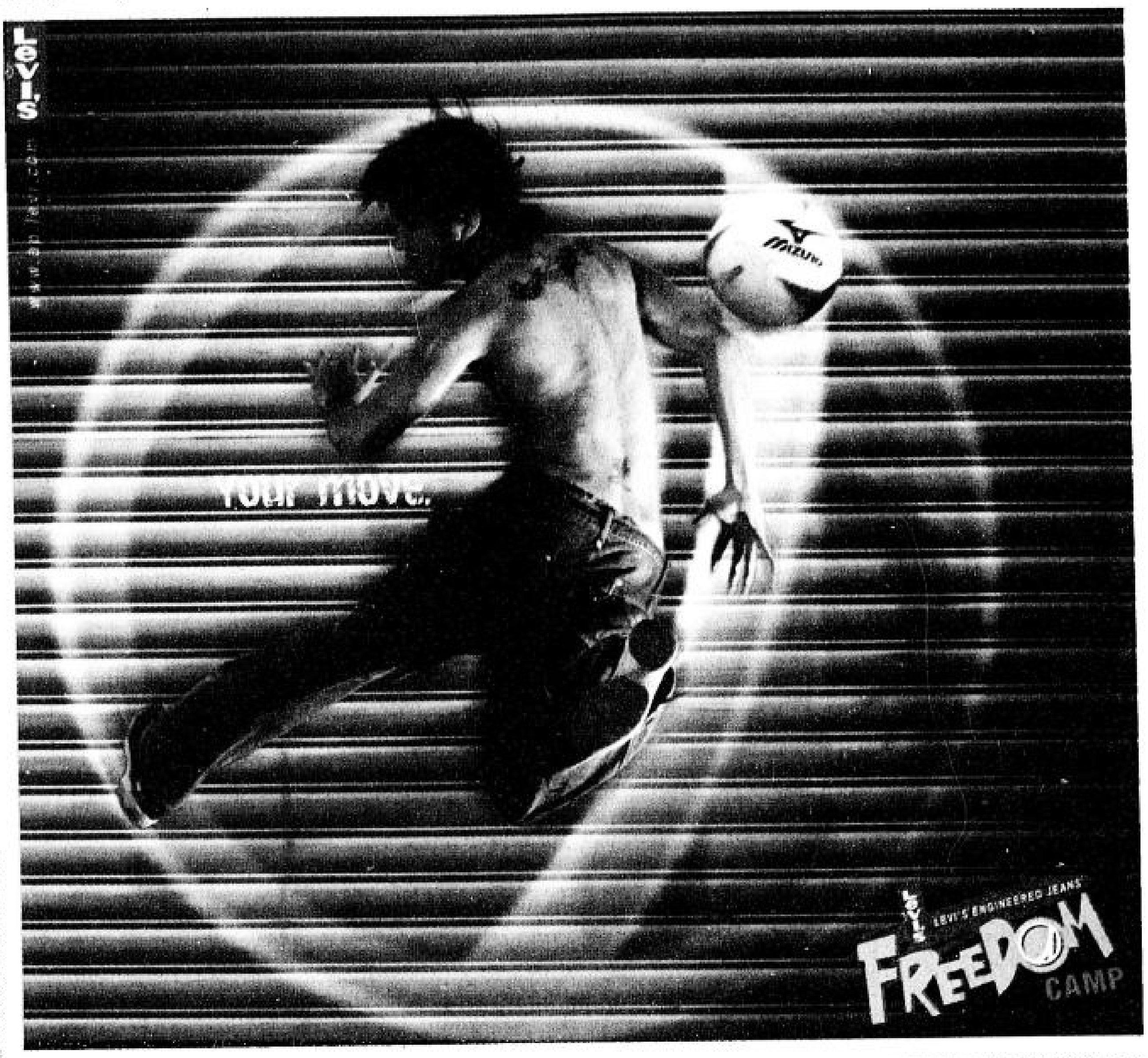
Ferdinand "Dedick" Manansala is a member of the Flipballaz, the first official street basketball team in the Philippines.

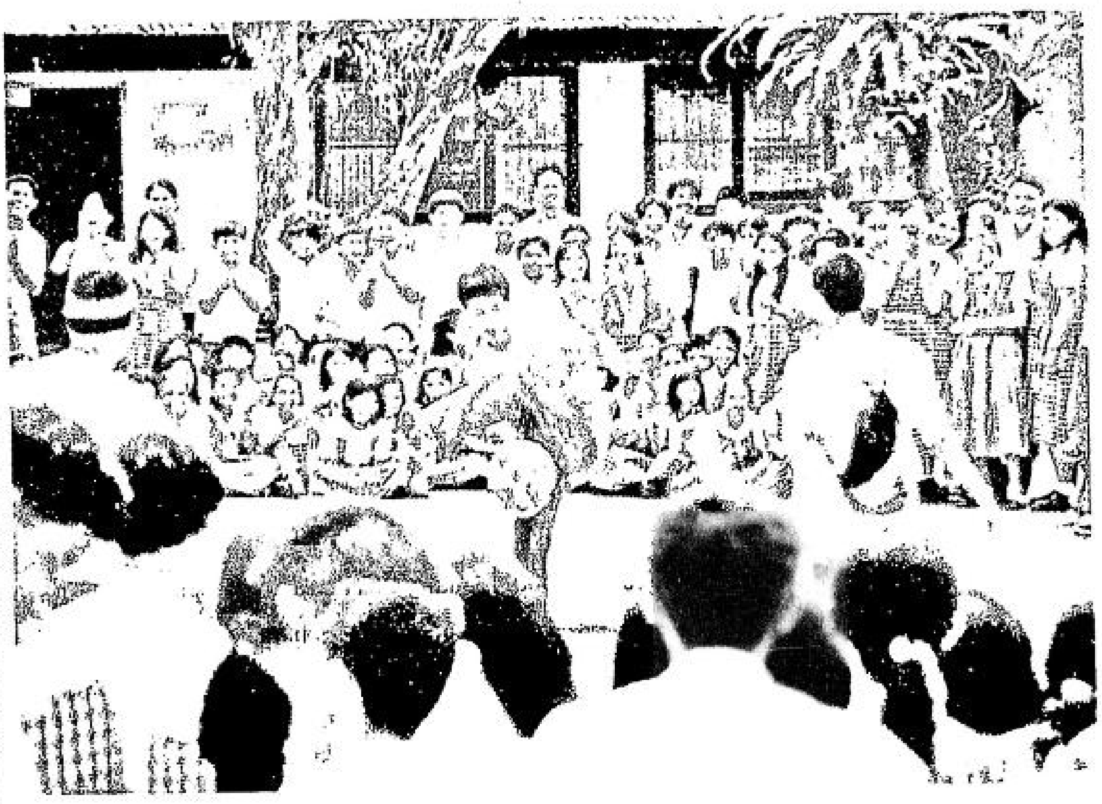
"It's not your conventional basketball," he points out. Street basketball strips the sport down to basics. "It's basketball without restricting movements."

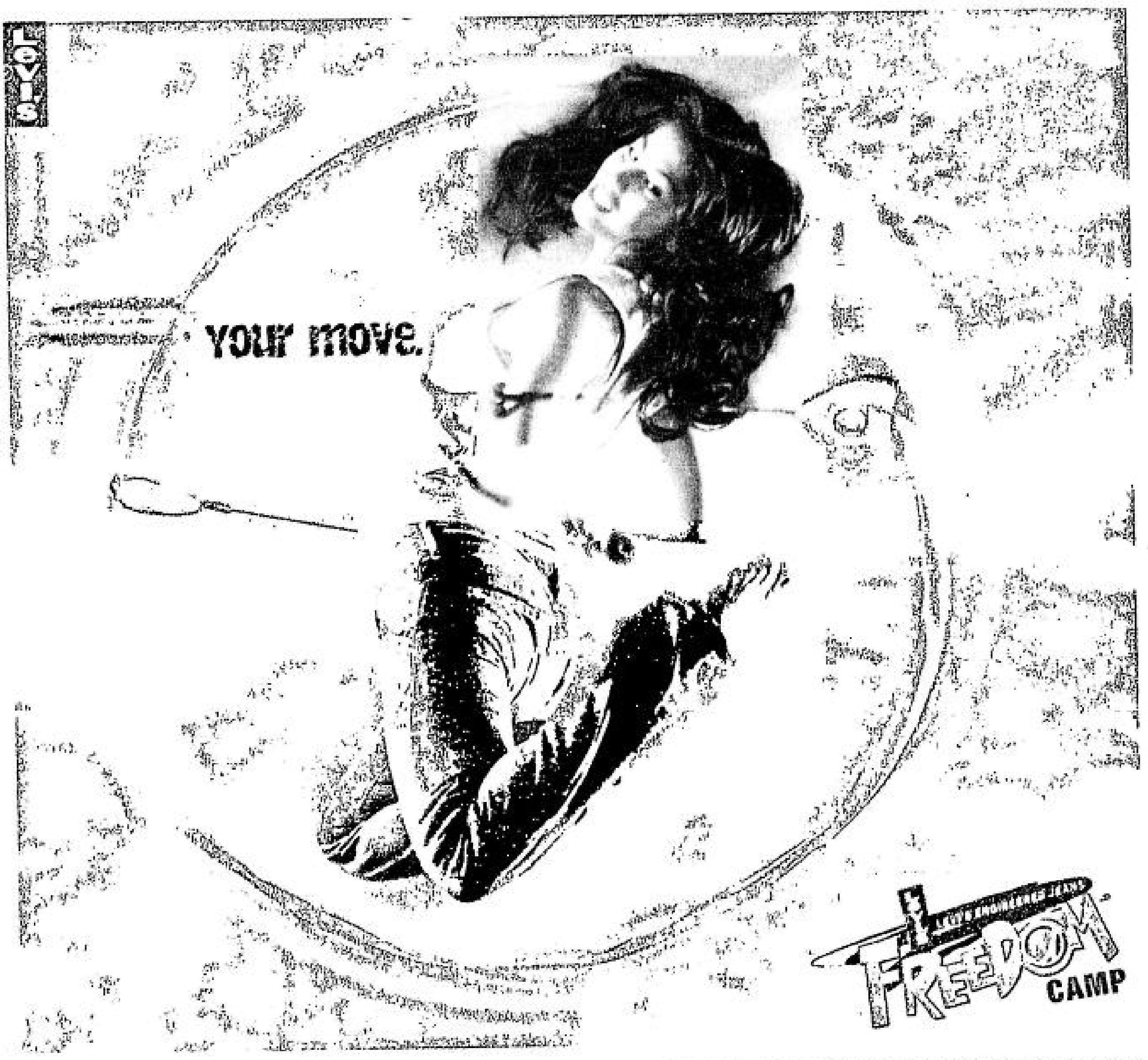
Dedick and his 10-man crew incorporate every move imaginable to their routine. Think Harlem Globetrotters, Pinoy-style. "All the cute and magical elements are right here," he says.

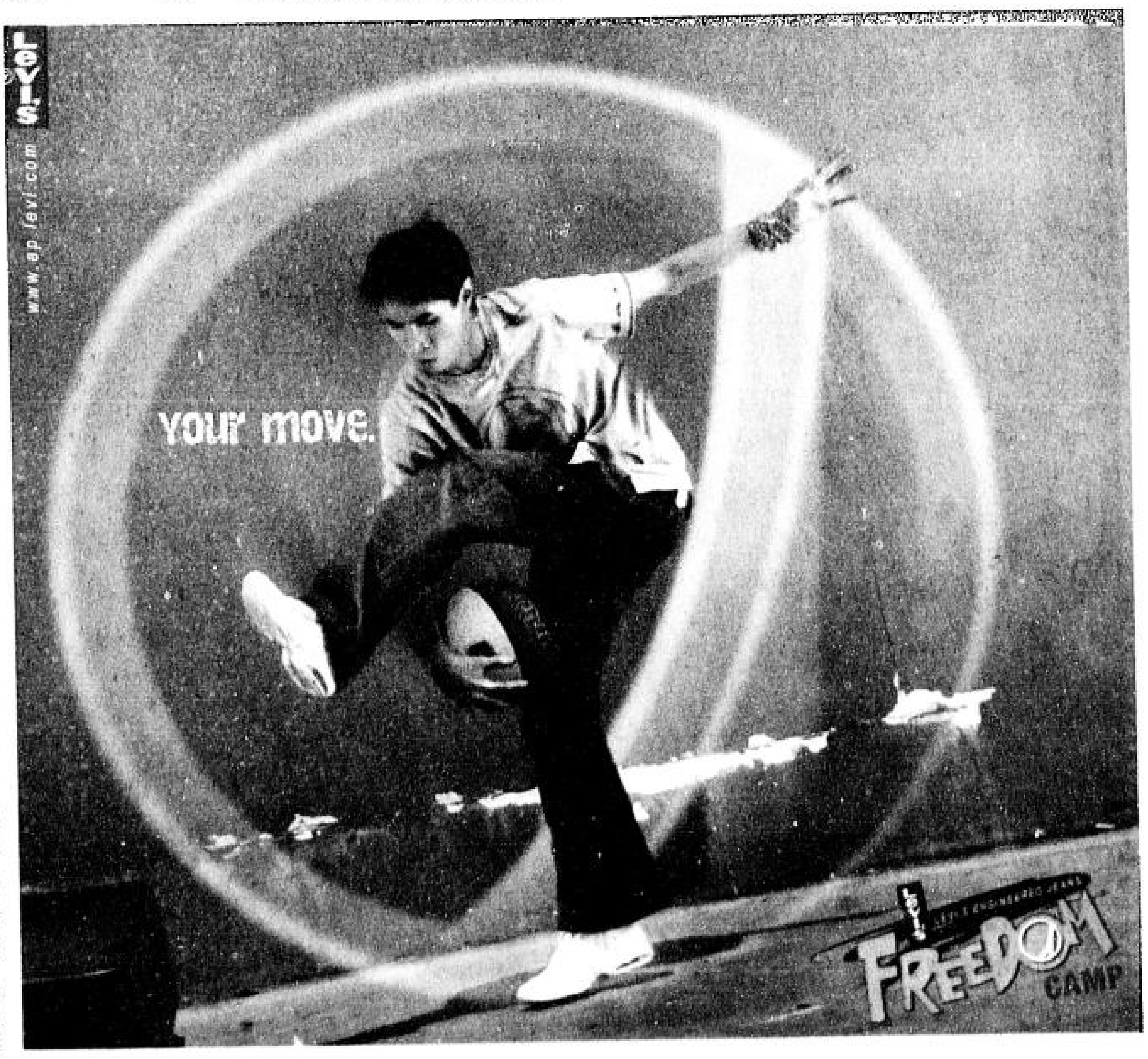
Catch Dedick do some amazing moves like the Milk Shake, a move done by alternately dribbling the ball under the left and right leg; and the tricky Praying Mantis, wherein the ball is held above the head. The player pretends to do an overhead pass but the ball actually runs down his back. And when it does, he lifts one leg off the ground and catches the ball in between the heel and the back of the leg!

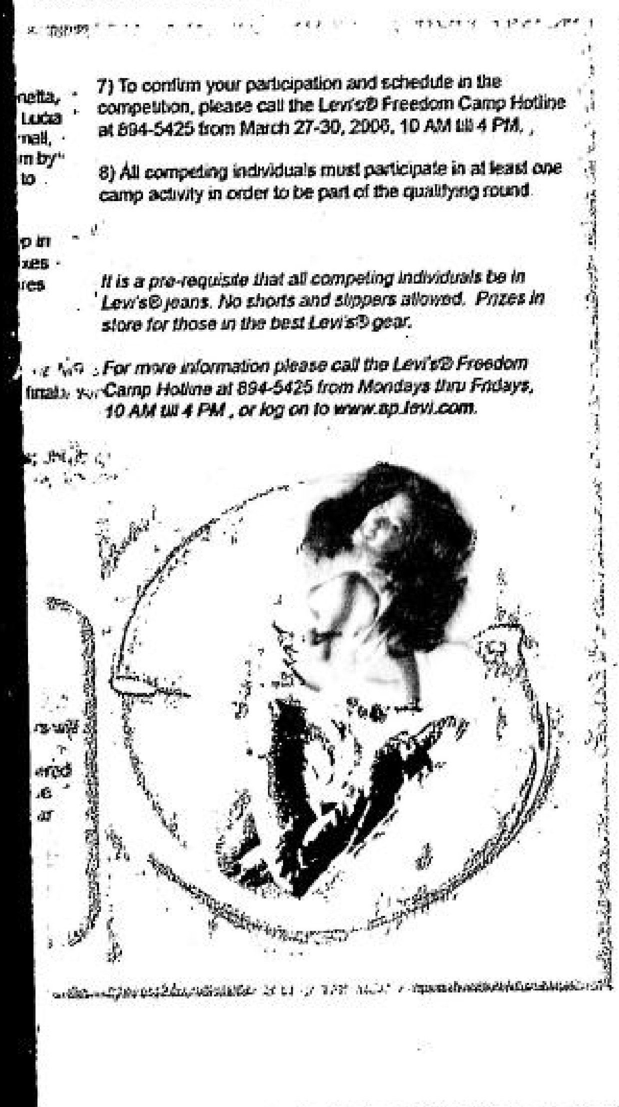
Get a chance to own a pair of Levi's Engineered Jeans for every minimum purchase of P3,000 in select Levi's stores.











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THE LEVI'S Engineered Jeans fever began with a campus tour that visited Assumption College, Claret, Don Bosco Makati, San Sebastian, St. Francis School and more.

DANCE COMPETITION
MARCH 6, 2006

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AERIAL VIEW
A STAGE
B FREESTYLE DANCE
C FREESTYLE FOOTBALL
D FREESTYLE BASKETBALL
E FREE CLIMBING
F ZIPPING

FIND your best self in the Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp.

Come one, come all!

Zip, dribble, juggle, climb and dance and get a go on what freedom is all about in the Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp

FREEDOM, AS THE DICTIONARY defines it, is the state in which somebody is able to act and live as he or she chooses, without being subject to any undue restraints and restrictions.

"That's pretty much how you'll feel when you put on a pair of Levi's Engineered Jeans. If you have a young and active lifestyle, Levi's Engineered Jeans provides the kind of freedom that simply lets you be yourself," says Levi's brand leader Ronnie Celestial.

Inspired by the shape of the human body, this pair of pants is ergonomically designed to follow the body's contours, with an angled hem, twisted side seams for better movement and lower back pockets for easy access. What it all comes down to is denimwear that puts premium on style, comfort and, above all else, freedom of movement.

It's exactly this kind of freedom of movement that you can learn and experience in the upcoming Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp. Zip, dribble, juggle, climb and dance and get a go on what freedom is all about in this two-day jamboree, which is open to all young men and women from ages 15-25.

Levi's consumer marketing manager Michelle Borromeo says, "With such exciting and competitive activities like Freestyle Basketball, Freestyle Football, Zipping, Freestyle Dancing and Free Climbing, the Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp promises to be a celebration of freedom for today's vibrant youth. Levi's has always been known to pioneer exciting activities that the youth can enjoy. And since it's Levi's, of course, we do it in style."

Join the Freedom Camp for an experience unlike any other. Call the Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp hotline at 8945425, Mondays-Fridays, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.levi.com

Levi's
www.ap.levi.com
your move.

Levi's® Engineered Jeans® Freedom Camp
Market! Market! @ The Fort
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Levi's LEVI'S ENGINEERED JEANS FREEDOM CAMP

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